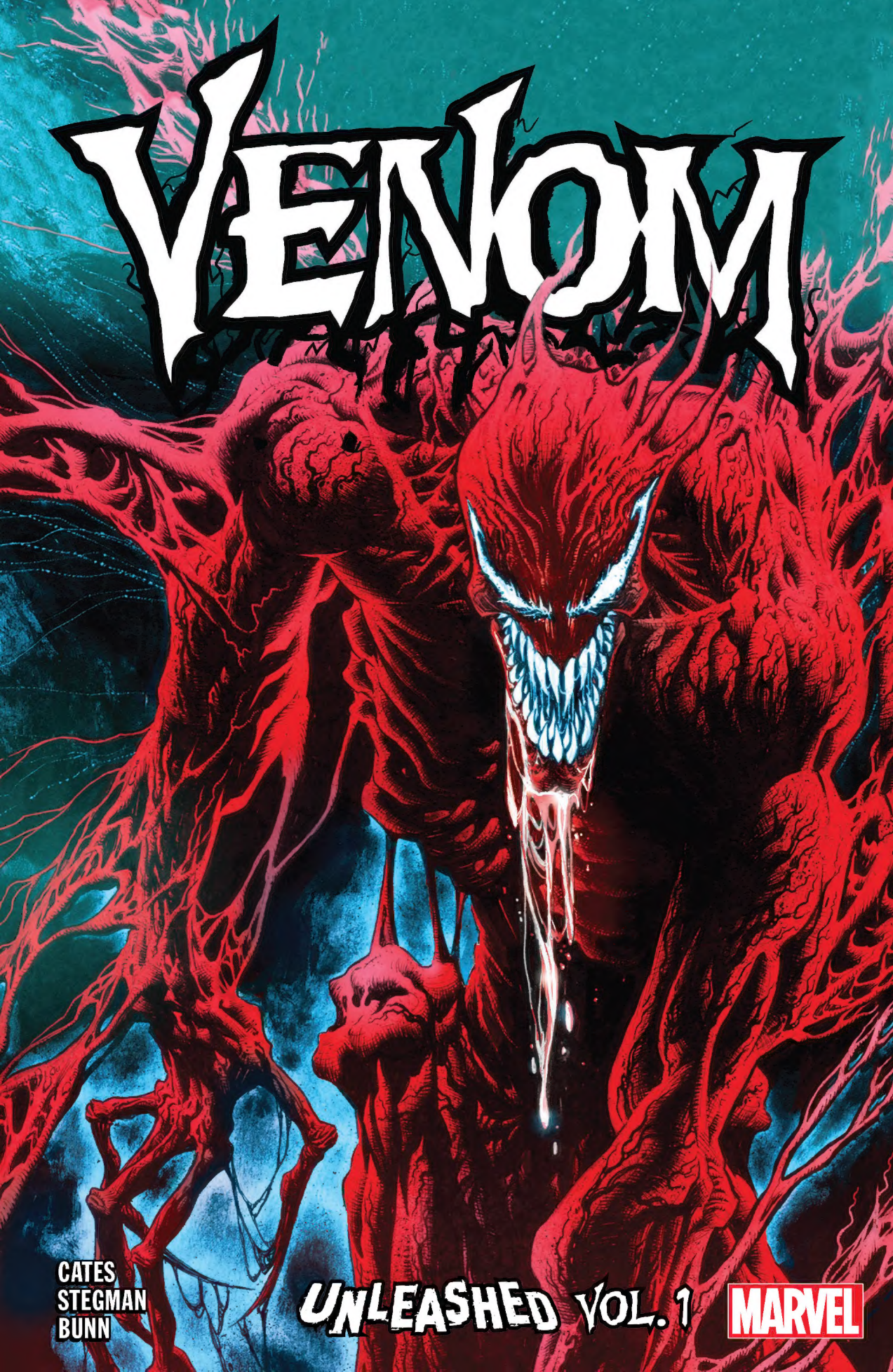
VENOM
CATES
STEGMAN
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MARVEL

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VE'NAM #1

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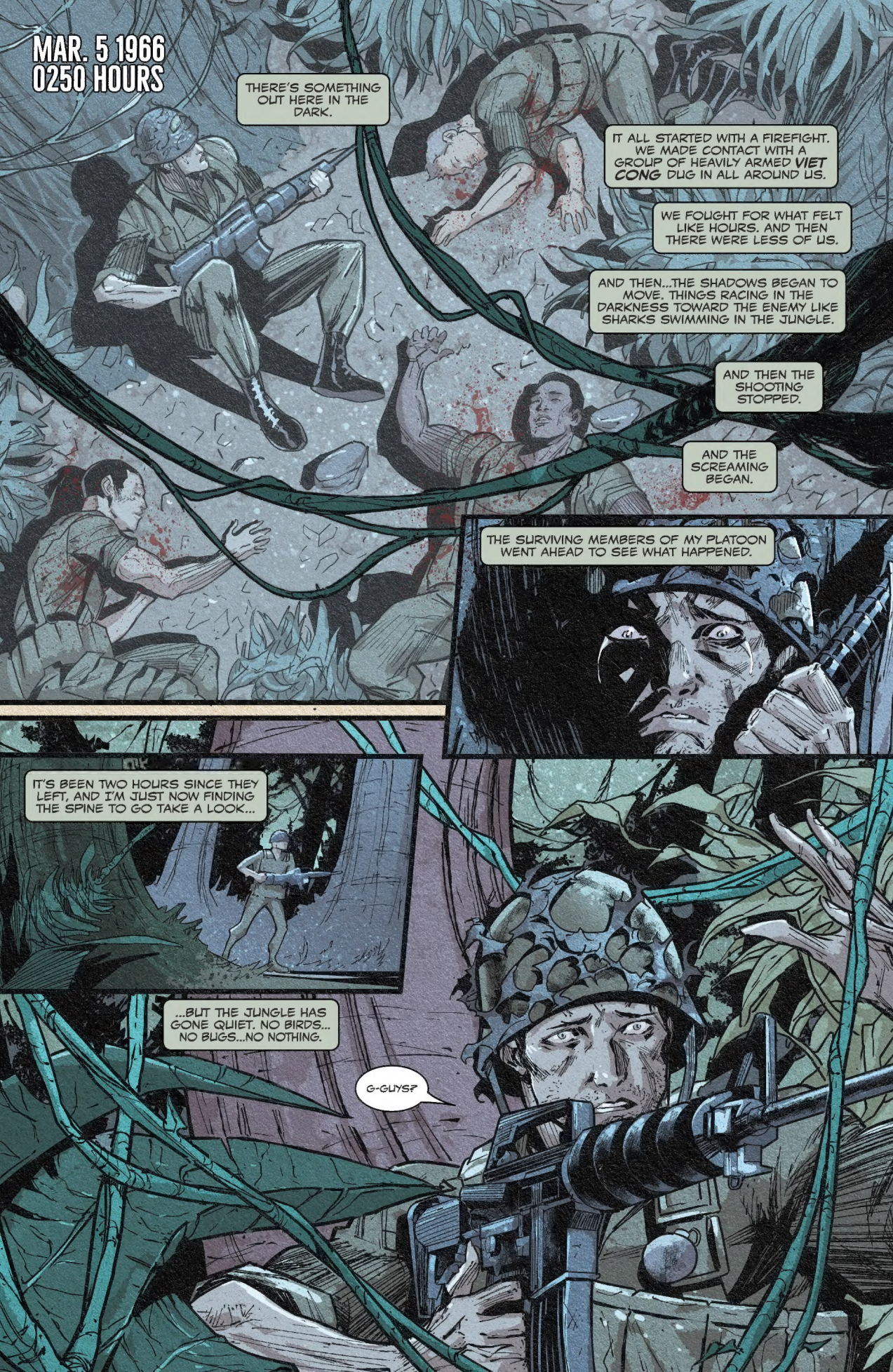
VE'NAM #1


MAR. 5 1966
0250 HOURS
THERE'S SOMETHING OUT HERE IN THE DARK.
IT ALL STARTED WITH A FIREFIGHT. WE MADE CONTACT WITH A GROUP OF HEAVILY ARMED VIET CONG DUG IN ALL AROUND US.
WE FOUGHT FOR WHAT FELT LIKE HOURS. AND THEN THERE WERE LESS OF US.
AND THEN...THE SHADOWS BEGAN TO MOVE. THINGS RACING IN THE DARKNESS TOWARD THE ENEMY LIKE SHARKS SWIMMING IN THE JUNGLE.
AND THEN THE SHOOTING STOPPED.
AND THE SCREAMING BEGAN.
THE SURVIVING MEMBERS OF MY PLATOON WENT AHEAD TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED.
IT'S BEEN TWO HOURS SINCE THEY LEFT, AND I'M JUST NOW FINDING THE SPINE TO GO TAKE A LOOK...
...BUT THE JUNGLE HAS GONE QUIET. NO BIRDS... NO BUGS...NO NOTHING.
G-GUYS?

LIKE EVERYTHING 'SIDES US HAD THE GOOD SENSE GOD GAVE A GNAT TO GET THE HELL OUT OF DODGE...
OH, OH DEAR GOD...
...BEFORE THE REAL DARKNESS FALLS.
MMM?
Y-YOU... K-KILLED--

AGH!
GAH! P-PLEASE!
N-NO!
AGGHHHHH!

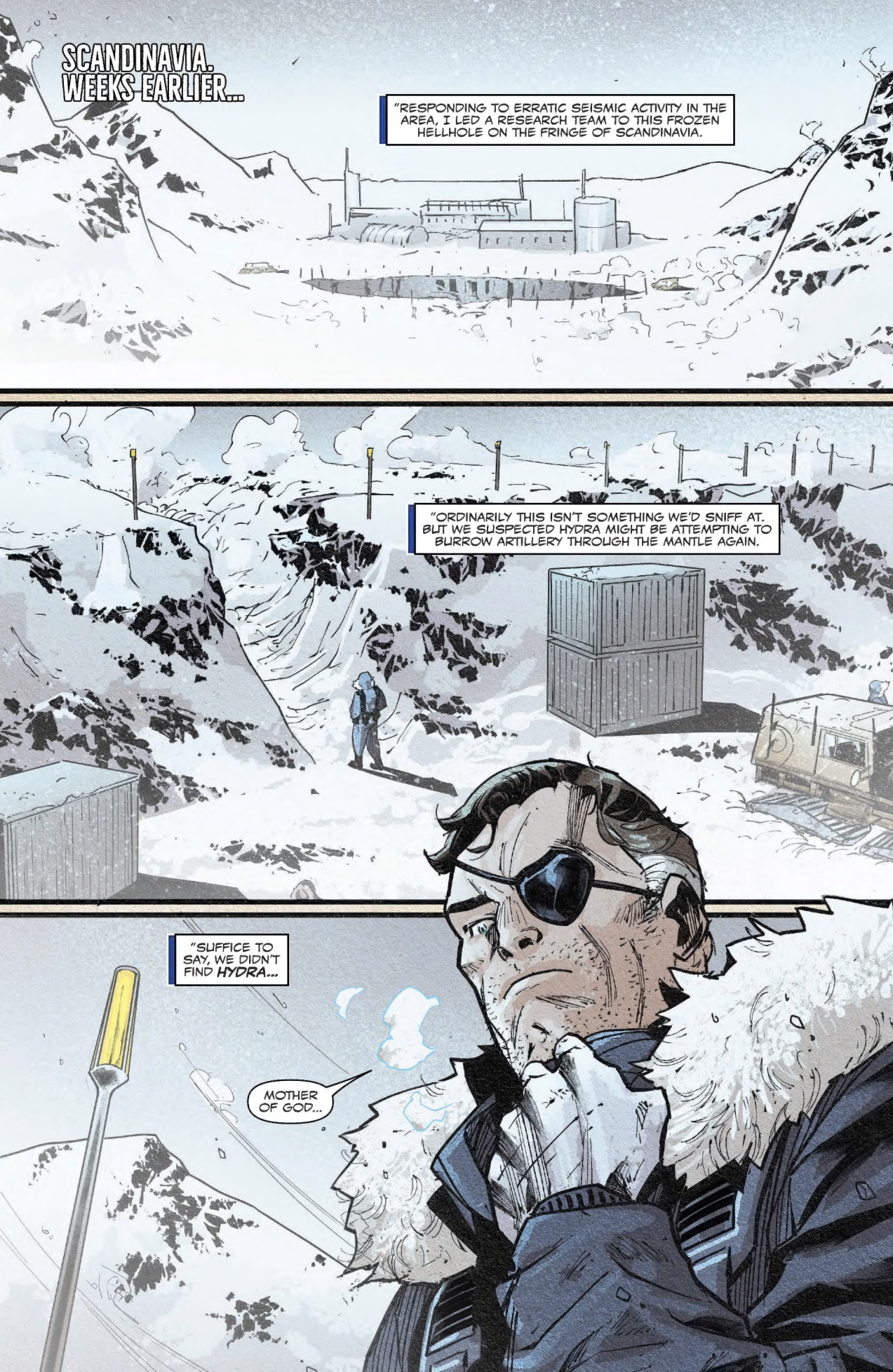
WEB OF VENOM

EDDIE BROCK BONDED WITH AN AGGRESSIVE ALIEN ORGANISM CALLED A SYMBIOTE, GRANTING HIM A MULTITUDE OF UNIQUE ABILITIES, AS WELL AS A PREDILECTION FOR EXTREME VIOLENCE TEMPERED ONLY BY EDDIE'S SENSE OF JUSTICE AND HUMANITY.

UNTIL RECENTLY, EDDIE BELIEVED HIS SYMBIOTE TO BE THE FIRST TO ARRIVE ON EARTH. HOWEVER, THE DISCOVERY OF AN ANCIENT SYMBIOTE, KNOWN AS THE GRENDEL, AND FORMER HOST REX STRICKLAND, A VIETNAM VETERAN, TURNED THAT BELIEF ON ITS HEAD.

BUT HOW DID A SYMBIOTE FIND ITS WAY INTO A WAR ZONE?

VE'NAM


SCANDINAVIA.
WEEKS EARLIER...
"RESPONDING TO ERRATIC SEISMIC ACTIVITY IN THE AREA, I LED A RESEARCH TEAM TO THIS FROZEN HELLHOLE ON THE FRINGE OF SCANDINAVIA.
"ORDINARILY THIS ISN'T SOMETHING WE'D SNIFF AT. BUT WE SUSPECTED HYDRA MIGHT BE ATTEMPTING TO BURROW ARTILLERY THROUGH THE MANTLE AGAIN.
"SUFFICE TO SAY, WE DIDN'T FIND *HYDRA*...
MOTHER OF GOD...

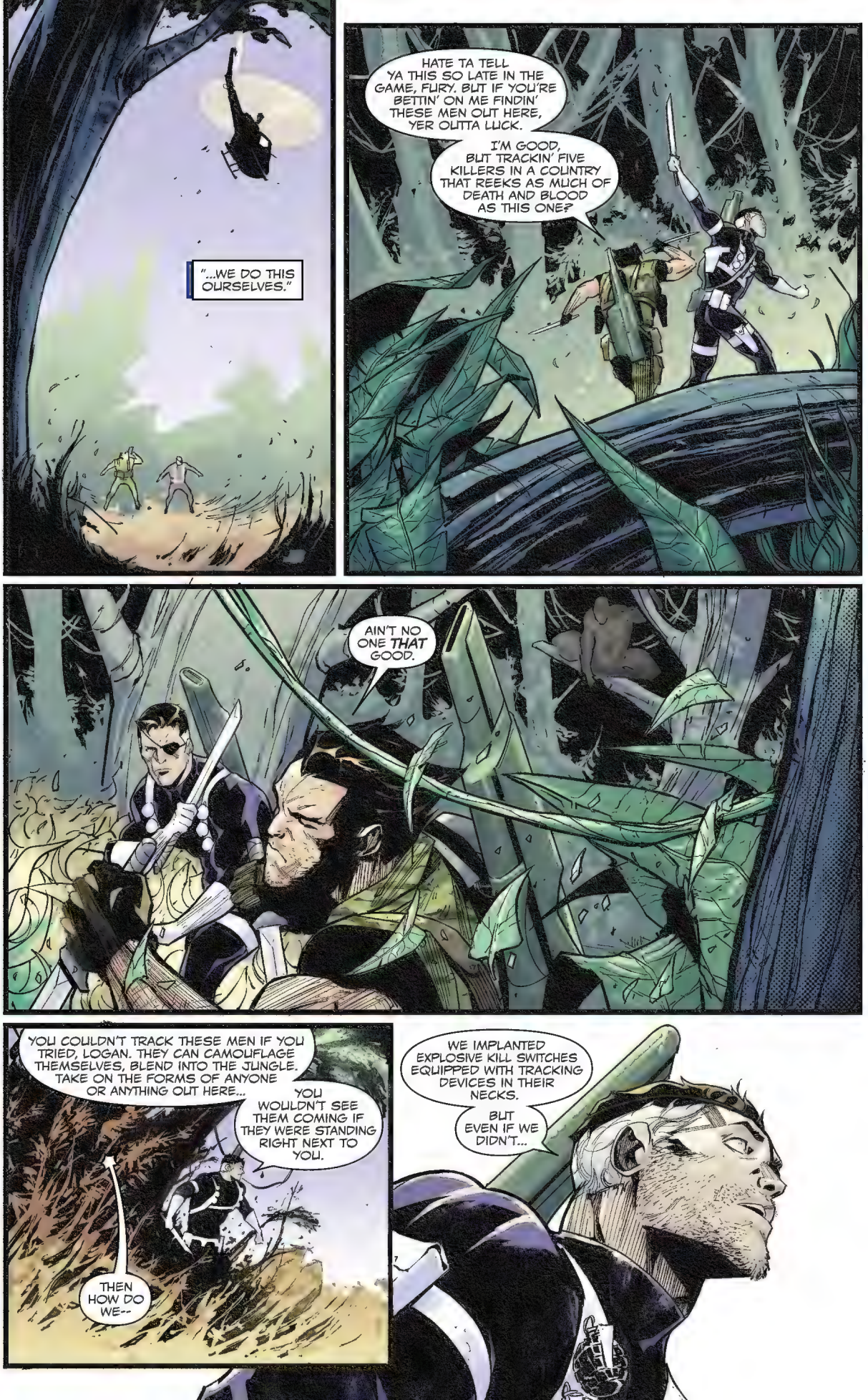
"...BUT WE DID FIND A DRAGON.

"WE EXTRACTED A SAMPLE FROM THE CREATURE, ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT WHAT WE THOUGHT WAS AN ANCIENT BEING WAS ACTUALLY SOMETHING...ALIEN.
"AND, TO OUR ASTONISHMENT, IT WAS ALIVE.
"AFTER FURTHER EXPERIMENTATION, WE INTRODUCED THE SAMPLE TO A LIVE TEST SUBJECT TO GAUGE ITS EFFECTS.
"WE DISCOVERED THE ALIEN WAS SYMBIOTIC IN ORIGIN. AND WHILE IT WAS SUCCESSFUL IN BONDING WITH ITS HOST...
"...THERE WERE CERTAIN... UNFORESEEN SIDE EFFECTS."
HEH, WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT.
CUT TO THE CHASE, FURY. WHEN DID YOU MOVE ON TO HUMAN SUBJECTS?

"DESPITE WHAT YOU MAY THINK OF US, WE ARE NOT MONSTERS.
"AND AS HARD AS IT MAY BE FOR YOU TO FATHOM, THIS WASN'T EXACTLY MY CALL.
"S.H.I.E.L.D. IS, AFTER ALL, STILL BEHOLDEN TO THE WILLS OF CERTAIN...OFFICIALS.
"AND AFTER THE LOSS OF CAPTAIN ROGERS, THE BRASS WAS AWFUL KEEN ON DEVELOPING THE NEXT WAVE OF SUPER-SOLDIERS.
"THE MEN WE CHOSE FOR THE SYM-SOLDIER PROGRAM WERE ALL HAND-SELECTED BY YOURS TRULY.
"LED BY THIS MAN, REX STRICKLAND.
"CODENAME: *TYRANNOSAURUS.*"

WE DEPLOYED THEM FOUR MONTHS AGO TO SOUTH VIETNAM. WE FOUND WHAT WE BELIEVED TO BE A SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS DEPOT RUN BY SOME LITTLE @#$% WHO THOUGHT HIMSELF A FUTURE VIET CONG WAR HERO...
AND?
AND THEY WIPED HIM OFF THE FACE OF THE PLANET. ALONG WITH AN ENTIRE COMPANY OF SOLDIERS.
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.
THE COMPANY THEY KILLED WAS OURS.
SOMETHING HAS GONE SIDEWAYS IN THE JUNGLE, SOLDIER.
OUR MONSTERS ARE OFF THE LEASH.
WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH ME?
I WAS HOPING I COULD APPEAL TO YOUR SENSE OF PATRIOTISM.
HEH... NO DICE, BUB.
I'M CANADIAN.

I NEED YOUR HELP, LOGAN. YOU KNOW THE TERRAIN BETTER THAN ANY MAN I'VE EVER KNOWN, AND--
YOU NEED THESE THINGS PUT DOWN.
THAT A PROBLEM?
...
NO. IT'S JUST...
WE DISCOVER LIFE EXISTS ON OTHER PLANETS AND...AND WE SEND 'EM TO WAR?
HELL KINDA THING IS THAT?
...
NICK... THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE DISCOVERED ALIEN LIFE, RIGHT?
THERE'LL BE A CHOPPER WAITING TO TAKE US OUT IN THE MORNING, BE READY TO--
LOGAN... GIVE ME SOME CREDIT...
HOLD UP. "US"? I AIN'T GREAT WITH TEAMS, NICK...
WHO WOULD BE DUMB ENOUGH TO PUT YOU ON A TEAM?
NO...


"...WE DO THIS OURSELVES."
HATE TA TELL YA THIS SO LATE IN THE GAME, FURY. BUT IF YOU'RE BETTIN' ON ME FINDIN' THESE MEN OUT HERE, YER OUTTA LUCK.
I'M GOOD, BUT TRACKIN' FIVE KILLERS IN A COUNTRY THAT REEKS AS MUCH OF DEATH AND BLOOD AS THIS ONE?
AIN'T NO ONE THAT GOOD.
YOU COULDN'T TRACK THESE MEN IF YOU TRIED, LOGAN. THEY CAN CAMOUFLAGE THEMSELVES, BLEND INTO THE JUNGLE. TAKE ON THE FORMS OF ANYONE OR ANYTHING OUT HERE...
YOU WOULDN'T SEE THEM COMING IF THEY WERE STANDING RIGHT NEXT TO YOU.
THEN HOW DO WE--
WE IMPLANTED EXPLOSIVE KILL SWITCHES EQUIPPED WITH TRACKING DEVICES IN THEIR NECKS.
BUT EVEN IF WE DIDN'T...

...THEY WERE KIND ENOUGH TO LEAVE A TRAIL.
HELL. NOT MUCH LEFT OF 'EM...
CAN'T EVEN TELL WHICH SIDE THEY WERE--
DOES IT MATTER?
NO.
NO, I GUESS IT DON'T.

YOU SAID THESE MEN HAVE KILL SWITCHES IN THEIR NECKS. SO WHY HAVEN'T YOU PULLED THE TRIGGER, FURY? WHY DRAG ME HERE?
WE CAN'T. NOT WHILE THEY'RE IN ENEMY TERRITORY. THIS THING THEY'RE WEARING...IT'S ALIVE.
IF THE MEN INSIDE DIE, THE ALIEN WILL SEEK OUT A NEW HOST. AND IF--
IF CHARLIE GETS HIS HANDS ON ONE OF 'EM, THAT'S A BAD DAY FOR EVERYONE.
EXACTLY. YOU FIND SOMETHING?
YEAH...
LOOKS TO BE A BAD DAY FOR EVERYONE...
THEY DUG THE KILL SWITCHES OUT OF THEIR OWN NECKS.
NICK, WHAT THE HELL ARE WE DEALING WITH OUT--
LOGAN? WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY DID YOU--
SHUT UP.
SOMETHING'S CLOSE...

WHOA... P-PLEASE DON'T SHOOT!
REX?
STRICKLAND, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS? WHERE IS YOUR SUIT?
IT... IT LEFT ME.
I LOST TIME. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED...
I WAS... MY MEN AND I...WE COULDN'T CONTROL THEM.
THEY, THE ALIENS... STARTED SCREAMING AT US...IN OUR MINDS.
SOME OTHER KINDA LANGUAGE, DIDN'T MAKE NO SENSE...AND THEN WE'D--WE'D BLACK OUT AND WHEN WE WOKE UP THERE'D BE...
OH GOD... OH GOD, WE DID IT AGAIN, DIDN'T WE?
WE DID THIS...
CALM DOWN, SOLDIER. TAKE A BREATH.
CAN YOU TELL US WHERE THEY ARE? WHY DID THEY TURN? WHAT IS MAKING THEM ACT LIKE THIS?

GET AWAY FROM IT!
THAT AIN'T ME!
REX?!
FWOOSH
RAAAGHHH!

UWAAAAM
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS THING?!
YOU HAVE TO RUN! GUNS AREN'T GOING TO DO ANYTHING TO IT!
FALL BACK, STRICKLAND! THESE BAD BOYS WERE DEVELOPED IN-HOUSE BY S.H.I.E.L.D. TO INCAPACITATE THESE THINGS.
IF WE CAN GET A CLEAR SHOT WE CAN--
INCAPACITATE AIN'T GONNA CUT IT!
I'LL HOLD THIS THING OFF, BUT YOU HAVE TO GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE AND CALL FOR AN AIR--
YOUR FUEL TANK! GET IT OFF BEFORE IT--

BOOOOM
@#$%! YOU SAVED MY LIFE, MAN...ARE YOU--
YEAH. I'M--RGN--A'RIGHT. JUST GIMME A SEC.
W-WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU?!
HEY! LOOK ALIVE!

WHERE DID IT GO?
NO, NO...WE HAVE TO LEAVE. IF THEY KNOW WHERE YOU ARE, THEY WON'T STOP.
RELAX, KID. WE'RE GONNA GET YOU AND YOUR MEN OUT OF HERE BEFORE--
NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHEN I WORE THAT SUIT I COULD PRACTICALLY WALK THROUGH NAPALM!
THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO TO STOP THEM!
WE CAN'T FIGHT THESE THINGS!
WELL, SOLDIER...

...I'M AFRAID WE MIGHT BE FRESH OUT OF OPTIONS.
GET OUT OF HERE, KID! WE'LL HANDLE THIS!
NO, YOU DON'T--
RUN!
I'LL COME BACK...I SWEAR I'LL COME BACK...
DAMMIT, LOGAN!
REX! COME BACK HERE, SOLDIER! THAT'S AN ORDER!
LET HIM GO. IF YOU NEED SOME MORE MEN TO DIE FOR YOUR LITTLE EXPERIMENT...
...I THINK YER WISH IS ABOUT TA' COME TRUE!
ARRGHH!

AGGHHH!
RATATAT
KEEP RUNNING. KEEP RUNNING. DON'T LOOK BACK, DON'T--
GRAGHH!
DAMN...
ARRGGHHH!
LOGAN!

ዋው...
ዋው እንዴት ያለ ጭራቅ!
@#$%!

WARRIOR
AGHH!
Y-YOU OKAY? I HAD TO COME BACK, AND YOU--
GIVE... GIVE ME THE GUN...
WAIT, YOU'LL KILL HIM TOO!
YEAH. PLANNING ON IT.

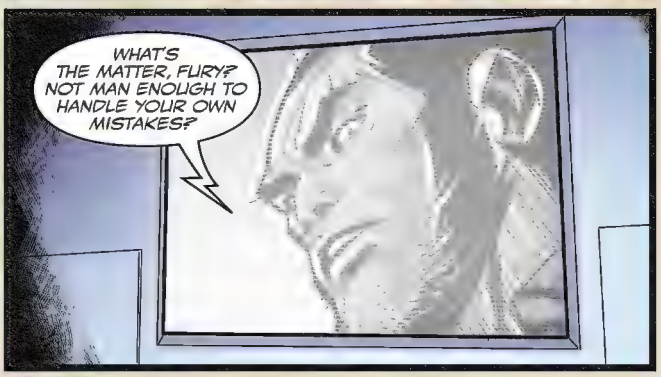
VWARAAAAM

THEY'RE--THEY'RE GONE...
NO, THEY AREN'T. THEY'RE SURROUNDING US. TAKING A BREATH TO FIGURE OUT WHAT WE ARE...
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

IT MEANS SOME OF US AIN'T WHAT WE LOOK LIKE...
...THE HELL?

THEY'RE CALLED LMDs. LIFE-MODEL DECOYS.

IT'S A FANCY WAY OF SAYING "COWARD," IF YOU ASK ME...


WHAT'S THE MATTER, FURY? NOT MAN ENOUGH TO HANDLE YOUR OWN MISTAKES?

OR ARE YOU JUST SCARED OF WHAT I WOULD DO TO YOU WHEN I FOUND OUT WHAT CAUSED ALL OF THIS?
LOGAN--
SAVE IT. I JUST BONDED TO ONE OF THOSE DAMN THINGS. I KNOW WHAT YOU DID. WHAT YOU'RE STILL DOING...
YOU WANNA TELL HIM OR SHOULD I?
WE...WE COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN...
WHEN WE DISCOVERED THE SAMPLE, WE HAD NO IDEA WHAT IT WAS...WHAT WE HAD FOUND.
AND WHEN WE DISCOVERED IT WAS ALIVE...
YOU TRIED TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO KILL IT.

"WE HAD TO, LOGAN. WE HAD TO KNOW HOW TO HURT IT IF WE WERE GOING TO RISK UNLEASHING PARTS OF IT INTO THE WAR.
"WE COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN THEY SHARED A HIVE MIND THE WAY THEY DO.
"WE DIDN'T KNOW IT WOULD DRIVE THEM INSANE.
"WE DIDN'T KNOW ITS SPAWN WOULD FEEL THE PAIN OF THE ORIGINAL."

YOU PUT SOMETHING IN A CAGE...POKED AND PRODDED IT UNTIL IT BROKE...AND YOU ACT SURPRISED WHEN IT COMES BACK TO BITE YOU.
IS THAT WHAT MADE YOU THINK OF ME FOR THIS? HUH?
ONE ANIMAL AGAINST ANOTHER?
I NEEDED THIS CLEANED UP. QUIETLY.
YOU KNOW THE SCORE, LOGAN. ALWAYS HAVE.
FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH...
...I'M SORRY IT HAD TO END LIKE THIS.
BLEEP
WAIT, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? WHAT IS IT COUNTING DOWN TO?
DETONATION.
WHAT? WE HAVE TO... TO RUN!
I KNOW NICK. I KNOW S.H.I.E.L.D. IF THAT THING IS MEANT TO CLEAN THIS ALL UP, RUNNING AIN'T GONNA HELP.
YOU'LL ONLY DIE TIRED, KID.
WE GOT 60 SECONDS ON THE CLOCK BEFORE THIS WHOLE JUNGLE IS ASHES.
BUT DON'T WORRY...

...I DON'T SEE US LASTING THAT LONG.
"SO WHAT HAPPENED THEN?
FINE. COME ON!
"AFTER THE COUNTDOWN BEGAN?"
"WE WERE SURROUNDED. THE ALIENS AND THE MEN INSIDE...THEY WERE RELENTLESS.
"I WAS OVERTAKEN BY THE ALIEN THAT ATTACKED YOU. IT CRAWLED BACK ON TO ME AND IT FELT...
"I DON'T KNOW...
"...AFRAID.
"I FELT REGRET INSIDE OF IT.
"REGRET...

"...AND RAGE.
"IT SHIELDED ME FROM THE BLAST.
"IT SAVED MY LIFE.
"I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH ELSE AFTER THAT, HONESTLY.
NOT... ANIMALS...
"THE OTHER MAN...LOGAN, WHAT HAPPENED TO--"
"THERE WAS NO OTHER MAN. UNDERSTAND?"
"UNDERSTOOD, SIR."
"WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT? AFTER THE BLAST?"

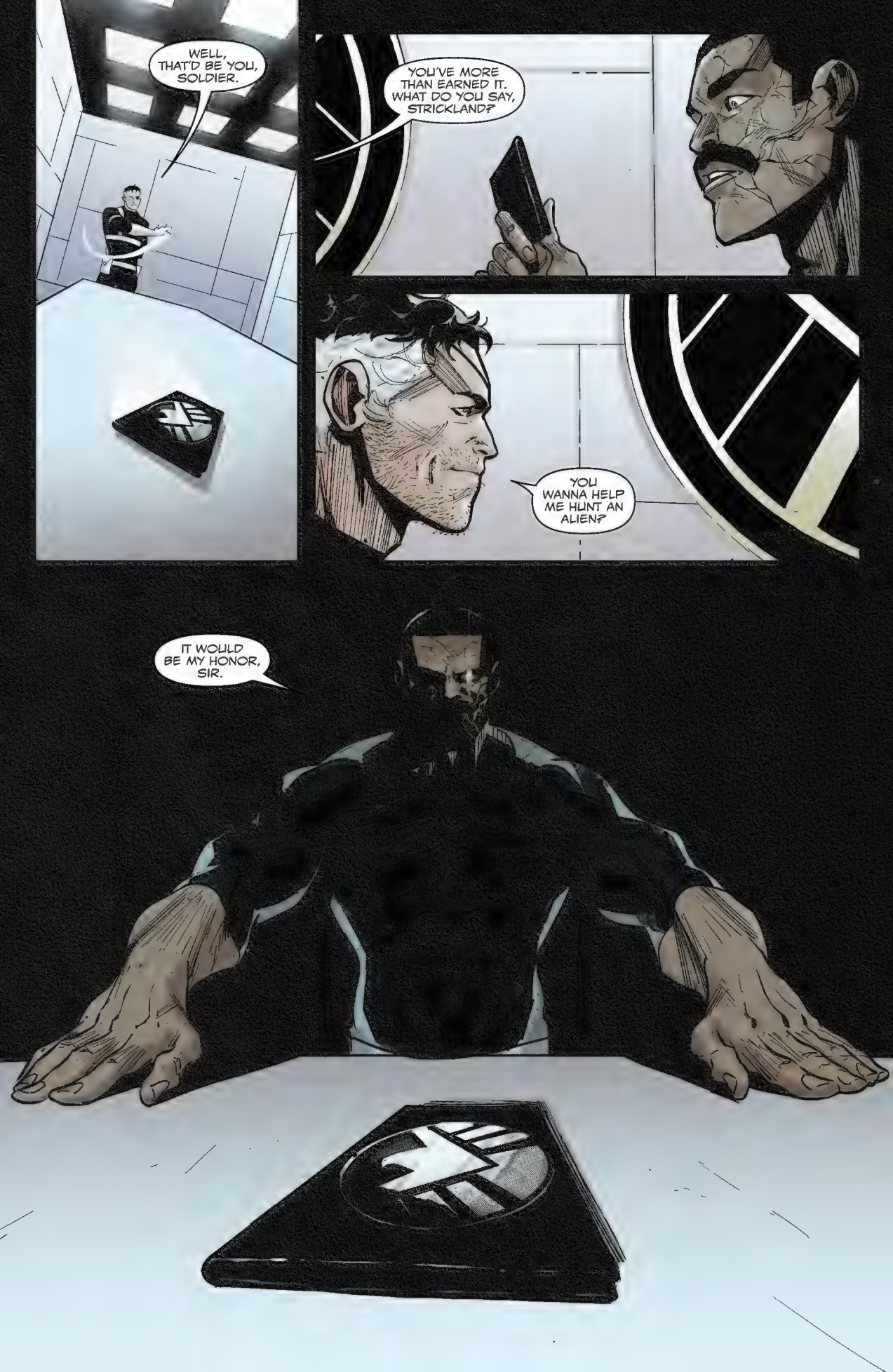
"...I WOKE UP ALONE."
AND THEN YOUR AGENTS CAME AND FOUND ME AND MY MEN. NOW I'M HERE IN THIS ROOM.
THAT'S ALL I KNOW, SIR.
YOU UNDERSTAND WE DID WHAT WE HAD TO DO, RIGHT?
I'D MAKE THE SAME CALL AGAIN TOMORROW IF I THOUGHT IT WOULD MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.
IT AIN'T PRETTY. BUT IT'S THE JOB, YOU UNDERSTAND?
I'M JUST HAPPY TO BE ALIVE.
SIR.

THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR, SOLDIER.
NOW, YOUR PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND BLOOD TESTS HAVE ALL COME BACK IN GOOD SHAPE. YOUR WITHDRAWAL FROM YOUR SUIT SEEMS TO BE MINIMAL.
WHICH... ISN'T SOMETHING I'M ABLE TO SAY ABOUT THE REST OF YOUR TEAM, UNFORTUNATELY...
HOW'S THAT, SIR?

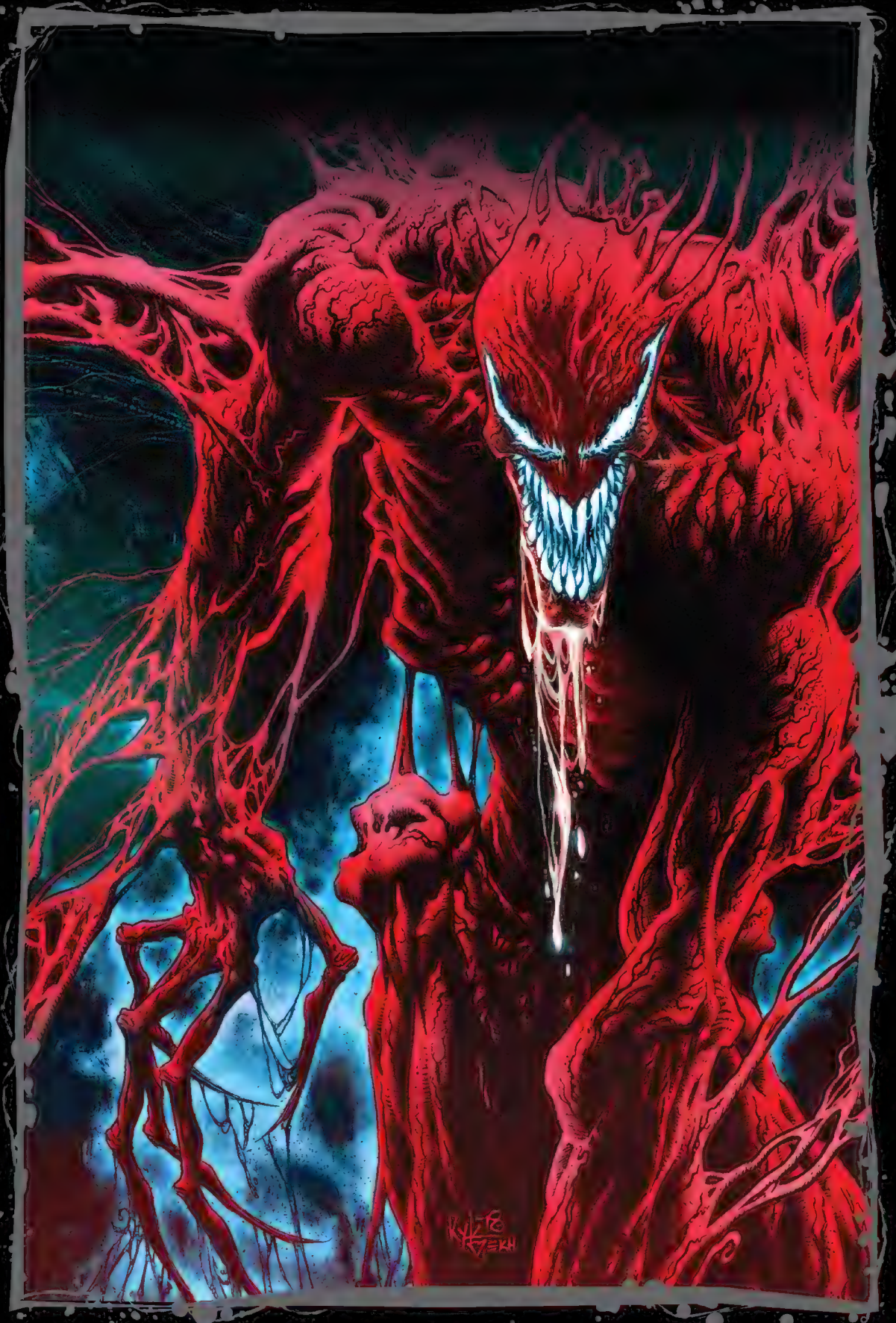
WE CAN'T SEPARATE THEM. THOSE DAMNED THINGS HAVE GOT A HOLD ON THEM SOMETHING FIERCE, SON.
IF WE TRY TO PRY THEM OFF... THEY'LL DIE.
I SEE. WHAT...WHAT DO WE DO, THEN?
WE'LL PUT 'EM ON ICE. IT'S A FAIRLY NEW PROCEDURE. CRYOGENICS, THE EGGHEADS CALL IT. I DON'T CLAIM TO UNDERSTAND HOW IT WORKS...BUT, WELL, THERE IT IS.
BEST WE CAN DO UNTIL WE UNDERSTAND THIS THING A LITTLE MORE.

SIR...I'M NOT SURE IF I'M SUPPOSED TO...TO TALK ABOUT THIS, BUT...
MY SUIT. THE ALIEN SAMPLE I WAS WEARING...HAVE YOU FOUND IT YET?
NO. NO, WE HAVEN'T. BUT WE WILL. I HAVE MY BEST MAN ON TOP OF IT. KNOWS THESE THINGS LIKE THE BACK OF HIS HAND.

SIR... MAY I ASK? WHO IS IT?


WELL, THAT'D BE YOU, SOLDIER.
YOU'VE MORE THAN EARNED IT. WHAT DO YOU SAY, STRICKLAND?
YOU WANNA HELP ME HUNT AN ALIEN?
IT WOULD BE MY HONOR, SIR.

VE'NAM #1 VARIANT BY **GORAN PARLOV** & **GIADA MARCHISIO**



CARNAGE BORN #1

WEB OF VENOM

A PSYCOPATHIC SERIAL KILLER AND FORMER CELLMATE OF EDDIE BROCK, CLETUS KASADY WAS KNOWN FOR HIS BRUTALITY AND VIOLENCE. HIS CAPACITY FOR CRUELTY ONLY GREW WHEN HE BONDED WITH AN AGGRESSIVE ALIEN SYMBIOTE THAT GAVE HIM THE ABILITY TO CONSTRUCT BLADED WEAPONS OUT OF THE SYMBIOTE'S LIVING TISSUE. DEADLIER THAN EVER, CLETUS BECAME THE KILLER KNOWN AS CARNAGE!

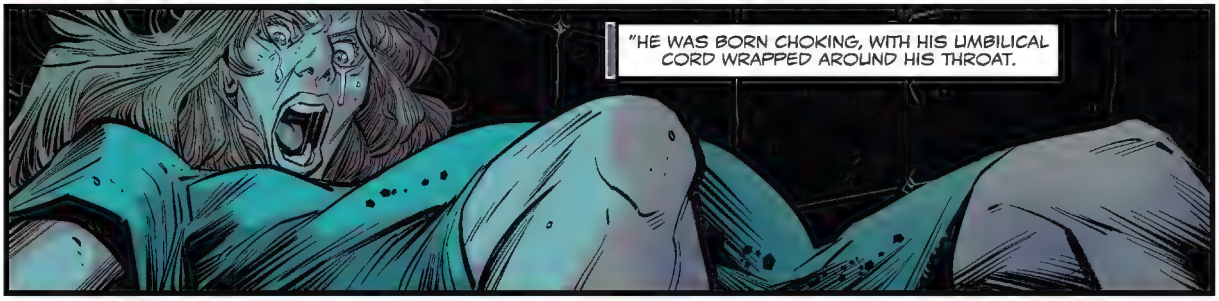
CARNAGE BORN

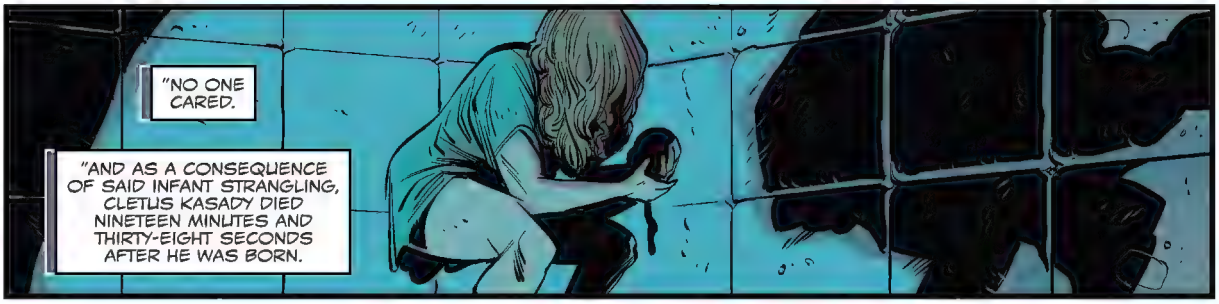
A SYMBIOTE DRAGON CREATED BY KNULL, GOD OF THE SYMBIOTES, WAS REAWAKENED AFTER THE COLLAPSE OF S.H.I.E.L.D. EDDIE BROCK AND HIS SYMBIOTE FOUGHT TOGETHER AS VENOM TO DEFEAT THE DRAGON, BUT AT GREAT COST.

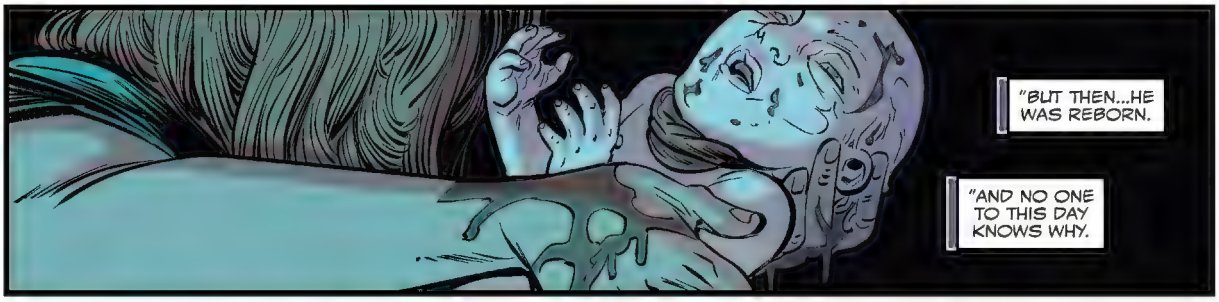
EDDIE AND THE SYMBIOTE AWOKE FROM THE BATTLE TO FIND THEMSELVES IN THE CAPTIVITY OF THE MAKER, WHO HELD EDDIE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SYMBIOTES AND THEIR HOSTS.

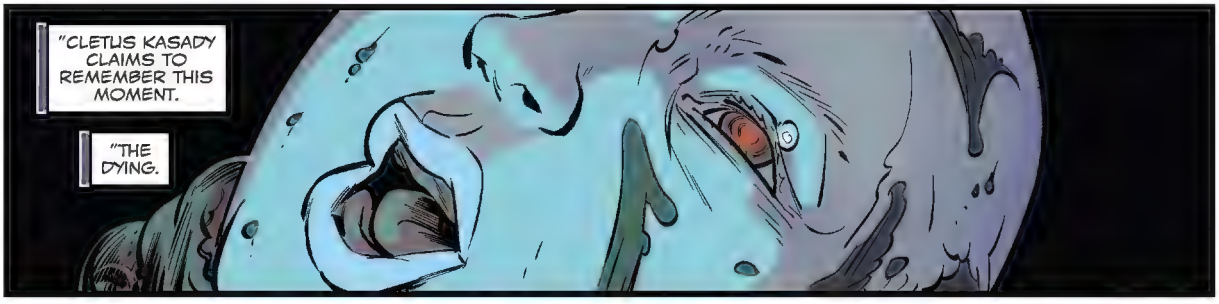
HOWEVER, THE MAKER IS NOT THE ONLY ONE INTERESTED IN KNULL...

KRAKADOOM
"CLETUS KASADY WAS BORN ON A WEDNESDAY IN THE RAVENCROFT INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE.
"IT WAS ALSO HERE, ON THIS VERY TERRIBLE NIGHT, THAT CLETUS KASADY DIED FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME.

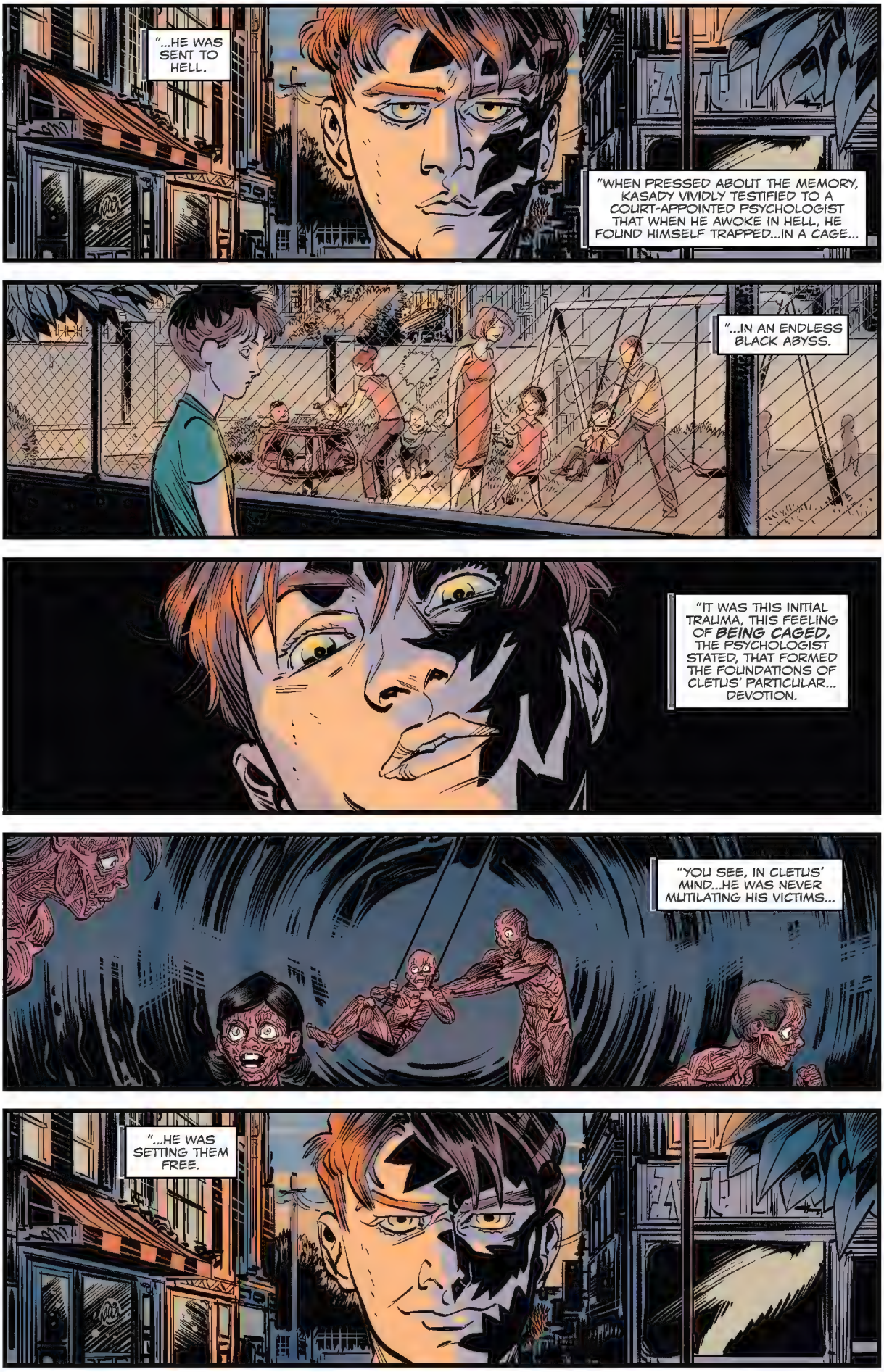

"HE WAS BORN CHOKING, WITH HIS UMBILICAL CORD WRAPPED AROUND HIS THROAT.


"NO ONE CARED.
"AND AS A CONSEQUENCE OF SAID INFANT STRANGLING, CLETUS KASADY DIED NINETEEN MINUTES AND THIRTY-EIGHT SECONDS AFTER HE WAS BORN.


"BUT THEN...HE WAS REBORN.
"AND NO ONE TO THIS DAY KNOWS WHY.


"CLETUS KASADY CLAIMS TO REMEMBER THIS MOMENT.
"THE DYING.

"AND IF YOU ASK HIM WHAT THIS MEMORY OF DYING CONSISTED OF, EXACTLY...
"...HE WOULD TELL YOU THAT NINETEEN MINUTES AND THIRTY-EIGHT SECONDS AFTER HE WAS BORN...

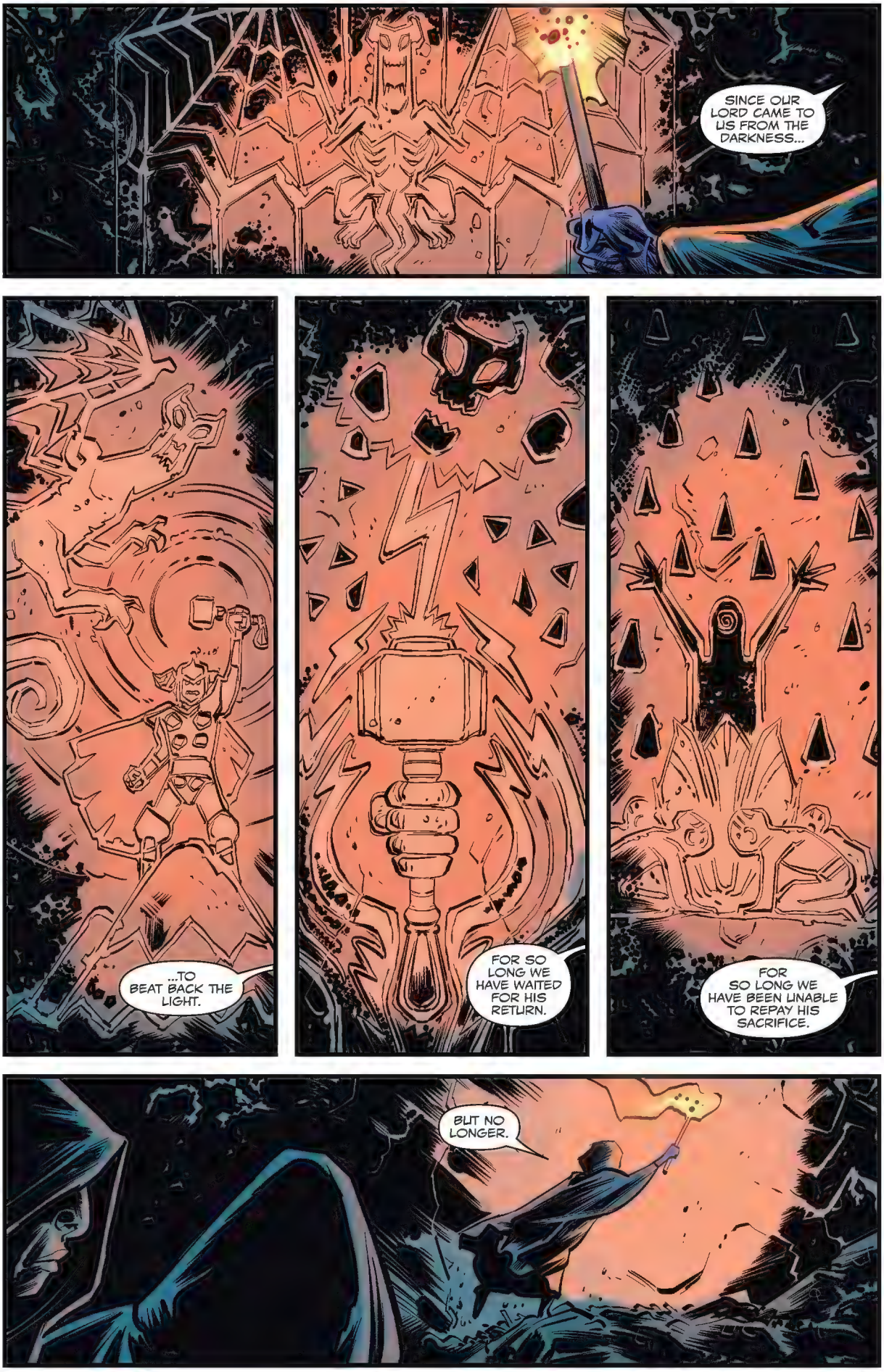

"...HE WAS SENT TO HELL.
"WHEN PRESSED ABOUT THE MEMORY, KASADY VIVIDLY TESTIFIED TO A COURT-APPOINTED PSYCHOLOGIST THAT WHEN HE AWOKE IN HELL, HE FOUND HIMSELF TRAPPED...IN A CAGE...
"...IN AN ENDLESS BLACK ABYSS.
"IT WAS THIS INITIAL TRAUMA, THIS FEELING OF *BEING CAGED*, THE PSYCHOLOGIST STATED, THAT FORMED THE FOUNDATIONS OF CLETUS' PARTICULAR... DEVOTION.
"YOU SEE, IN CLETUS' MIND...HE WAS NEVER MUTILATING HIS VICTIMS...
"...HE WAS SETTING THEM FREE.

"IT IS PERHAPS COSMICALLY FITTING THAT CLETUS' SECOND REBIRTH WOULD BEGIN...
"...INSIDE THE WALLS OF A PRISON.
"THAT NIGHT, THE DARKNESS CAME ALIVE AND SHATTERED THE WALLS OF HIS CELL. THE ABYSS SET HIM FREE.
"IT WAS THAT NIGHT THAT IT ALL BECAME CLEAR TO CLETUS."
"WHAT HE WAS DOING. WHO HE WAS.
"WHAT HE HAD BEEN PUT ON THIS EARTH TO BECOME.
"HIS DESTINY. HIS FATE.
"IN THAT MOMENT, WHETHER HE KNEW IT OR NOT...
"...HE BECAME AN AGENT OF THE VOID.
"THAT DAY HE LEARNED THE TRUTH.
"THERE IS NO RIGHT. NO WRONG. NO BLACK OR WHITE.
"THERE IS ONLY LIFE AND DEATH.
"BLOOD AND THE ABYSS.
"THE UNIVERSE IS BLACK AND RED.
"TRUTH IS CHAOS..."

"...GOD IS CARNAGE."

AND NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, A GRAND, NEW DARK HAS COME.
DO YOU SEE IT? THE SHAPE OF IT AS IT BLOOMS ACROSS THE ABYSS?
THE PROPHECY CHURNING AND ROARING TO LIFE?
MANY HAVE WORN OUR GOD'S LIVING DARKNESS. STUMBLED INTO IT. UPON IT.
BUT THE DARKNESS CHOSE HIM.
KASADY WAS BORN ON THIS EARTH TO SHATTER THE WALLS OF OUR CAGES. HE HAS DIED AND BEEN REBORN FOR US. FOR HIM.
KASADY. HE IS THE ONE.
HE WILL RISE.
FWFH

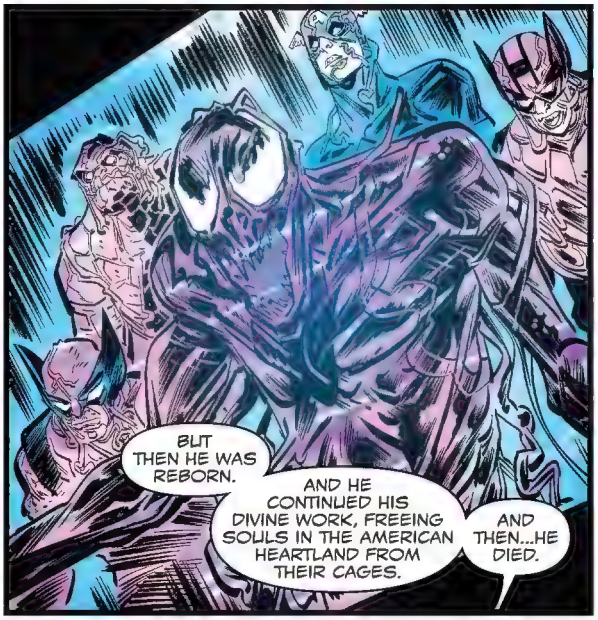
AND OUR GOD WILL BE FREE.
BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WE HAVE WAITED FOR SO LONG.


SINCE OUR LORD CAME TO US FROM THE DARKNESS...
...TO BEAT BACK THE LIGHT.
FOR SO LONG WE HAVE WAITED FOR HIS RETURN.
FOR SO LONG WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO REPAY HIS SACRIFICE.
BUT NO LONGER.

WE DO THESE THINGS IN HIS NAME.
IN SERVITUDE TO THE GREAT DARK.
SO THAT WE MAY JOIN THE BLACK KING, KNULL, IN THE FINAL NIGHT!
FOREVER AND TOGETHER IN THE VOID.
FOREVER.
AND TOGETHER.
FOREVER!
TOGETHER!
IN THE VOID.

BUT... WHERE IS CLETUS KASADY?
IS HE NOT DEAD? AREN'T THOSE THE RUMORS AND WHISPERS?

WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT HE WAS TAKEN INTO THE DARKNESS OF SPACE.
RIPPED APART AND LEFT FLOATING AND DEAD.

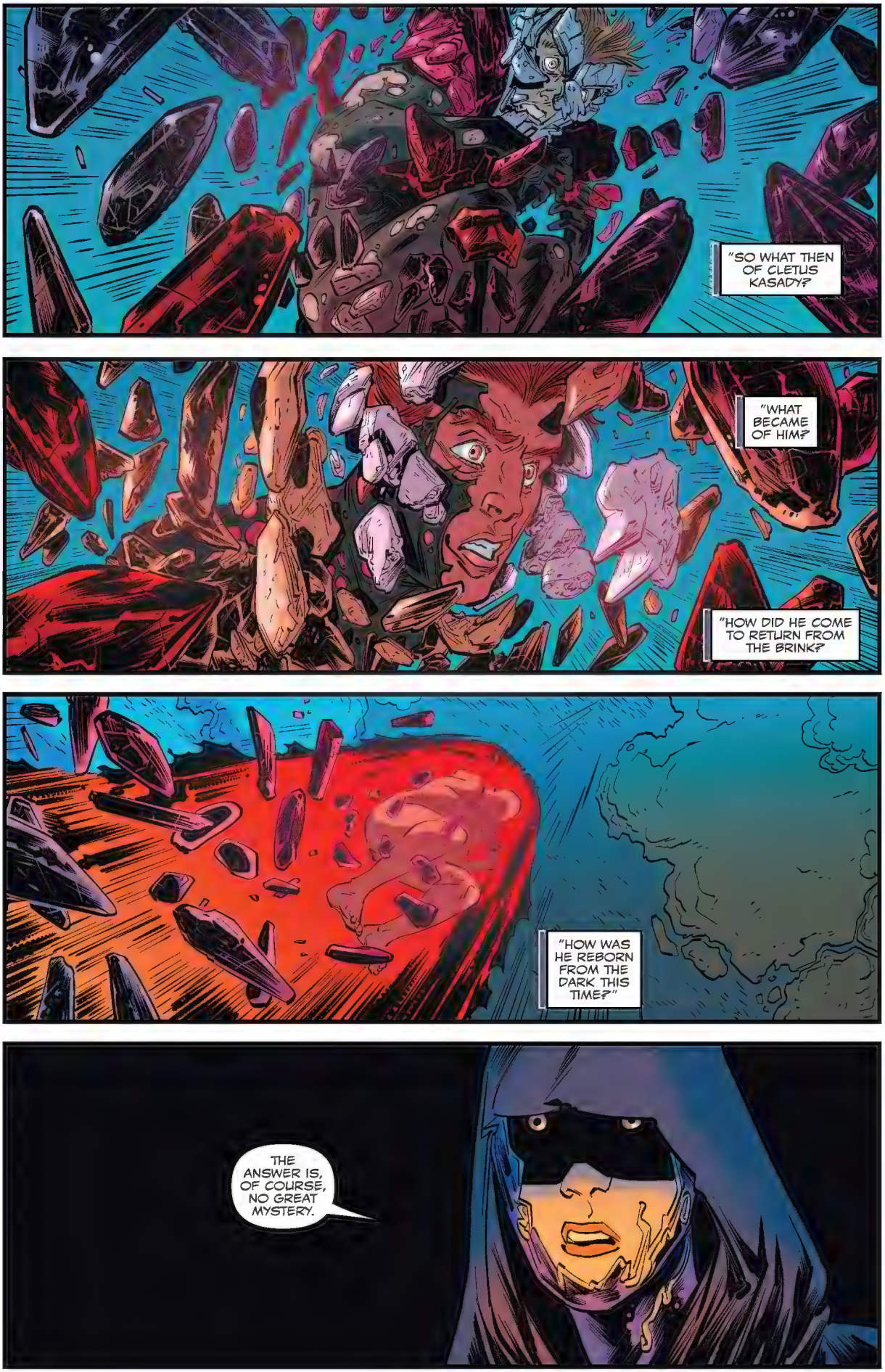

BUT THEN HE WAS REBORN.
AND HE CONTINUED HIS DIVINE WORK, FREEING SOULS IN THE AMERICAN HEARTLAND FROM THEIR CAGES.
AND THEN...HE DIED.

AND THEN... REBORN AGAIN. LOOKING TO THE ANCIENT WAYS IN SERVICE OF THE BLACK AND THE RED.
AND THEN...

...WELL... WE DO NOT KNOW. NOT FOR SURE.
SOME SAY HE WAS...STOLEN. TAKEN FAR AWAY...
SOME SAY HE DIED. FOR GOOD THIS TIME...

BUT WE KNOW BETTER. DO WE NOT? HAVE WE NOT *LEARNED?*
THE ABYSS... THE ABYSS IS NOT *DEATH.*

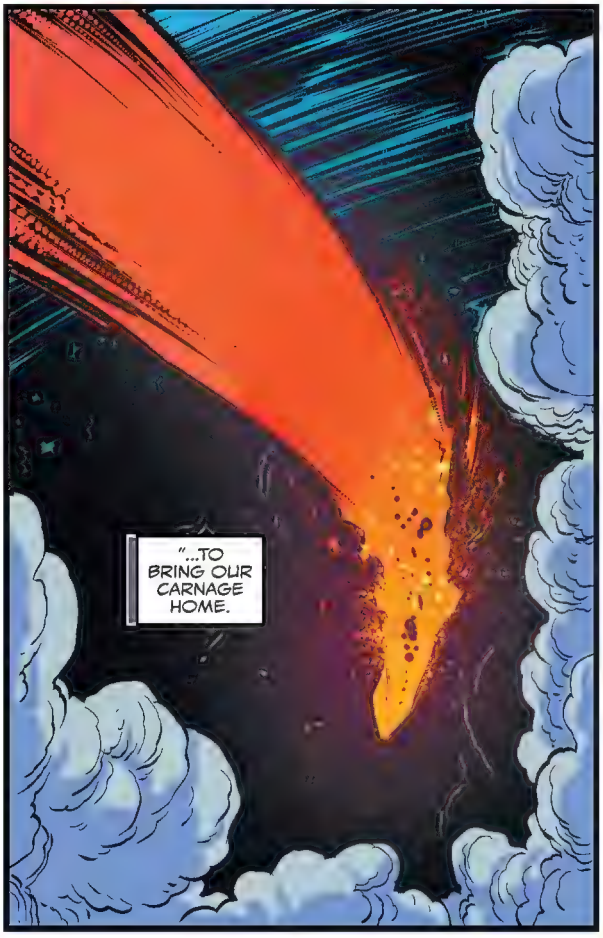
"DARKNESS IS NOT THE END.

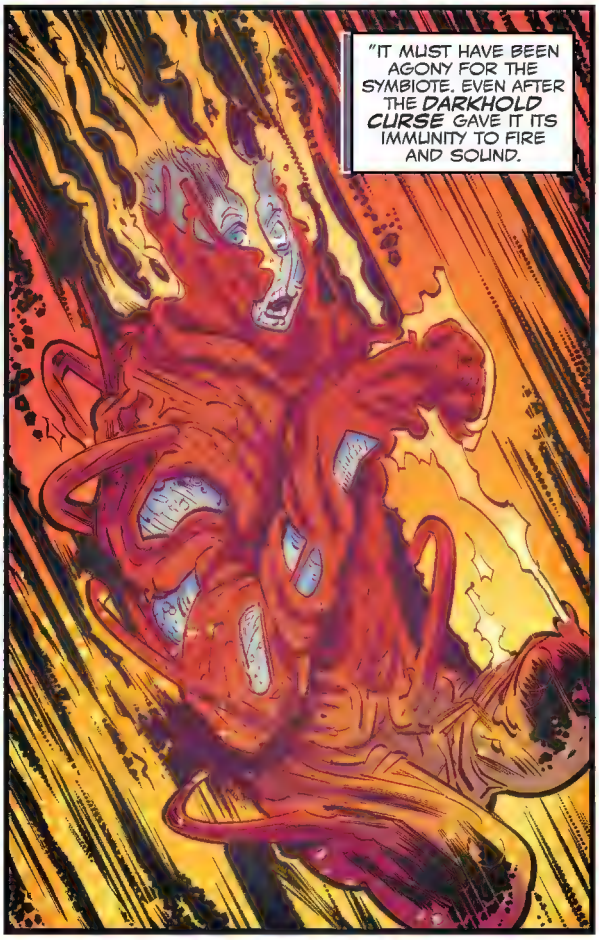

"SO WHAT THEN OF CLETUS KASADY?
"WHAT BECAME OF HIM?
"HOW DID HE COME TO RETURN FROM THE BRINK?
"HOW WAS HE REBORN FROM THE DARK THIS TIME?"
THE ANSWER IS, OF COURSE, NO GREAT MYSTERY.

"HE BURNED.

"AFTER WE RECOVERED HIS BODY, WE PERFORMED EXTENSIVE RESEARCH TO DETERMINE HOW THIS MAN COULD HAVE SURVIVED RE-ENTRY INTO THE ATMOSPHERE.
"BUT WE ALREADY KNEW THE ANSWER.

"CLETUS AND HIS SYMBIOTE HAVE A VERY UNIQUE BOND. A PERFECT ONE--WHERE THERE IS ONE, THERE IS THE OTHER.
"AND AS HE FELL, THIS GENTLE CREATURE BREACHED HIS FLESH TO FACE THE FLAME ONE FINAL TIME...

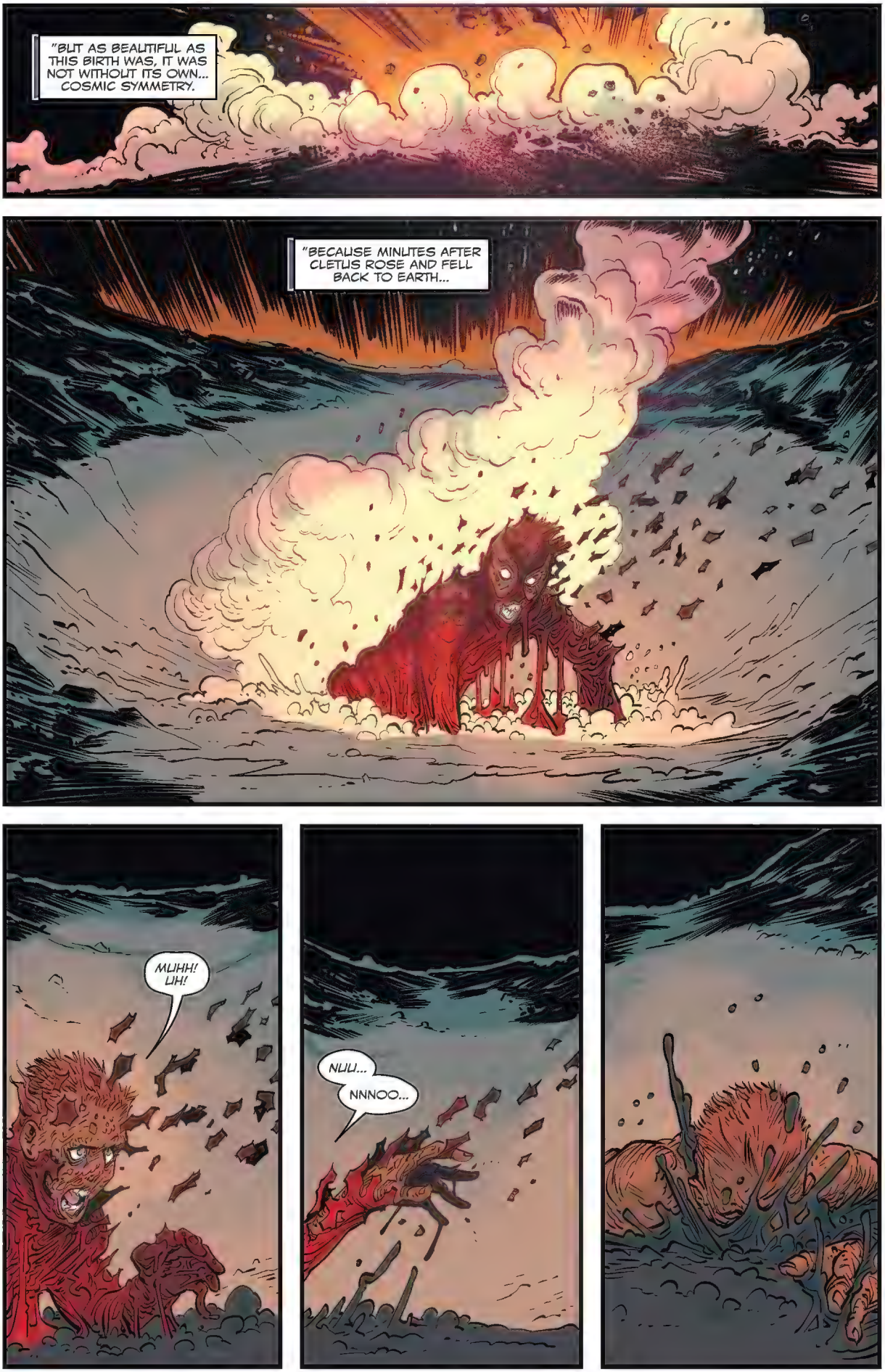

"...TO BRING OUR CARNAGE HOME.

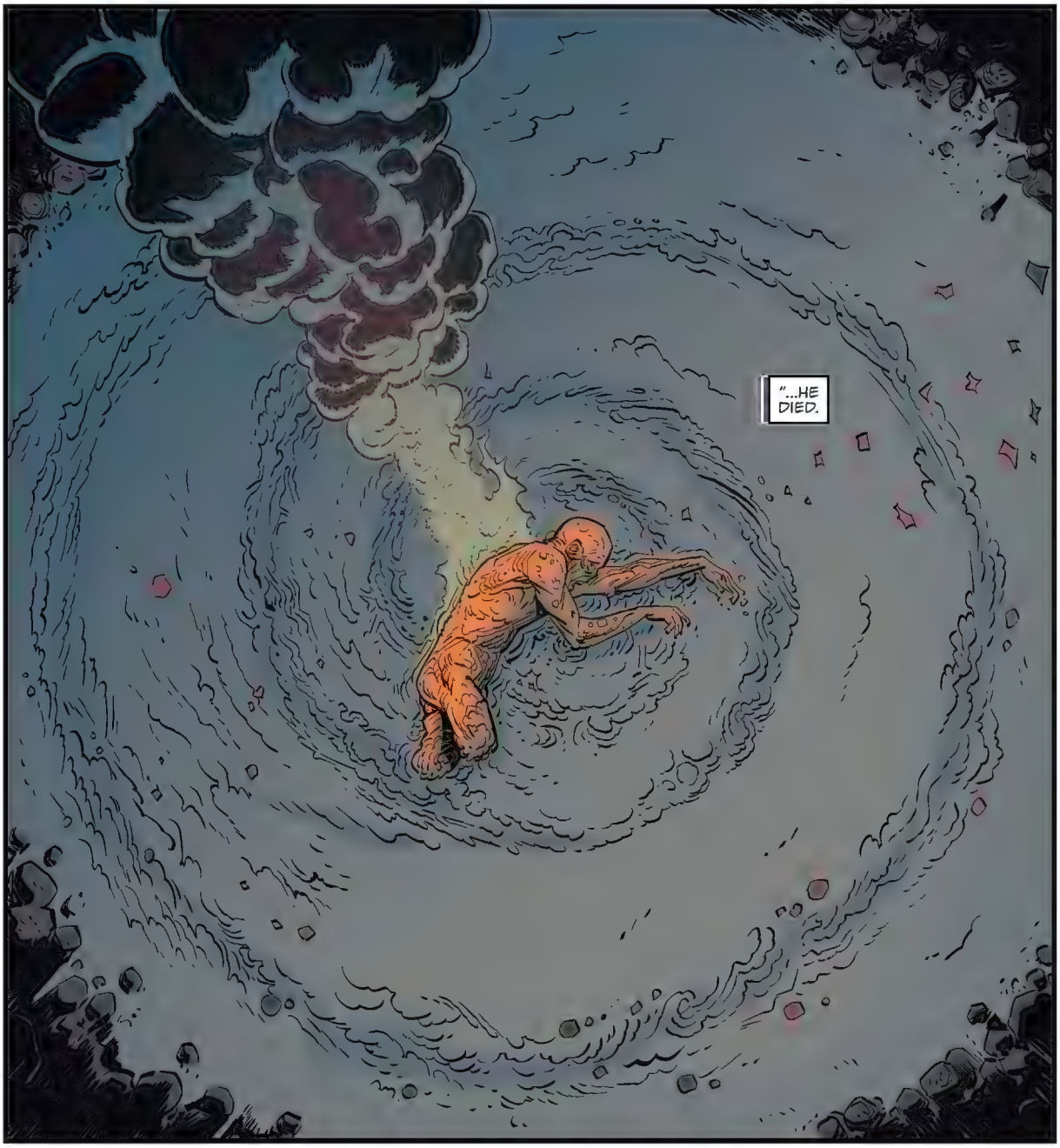

"IT MUST HAVE BEEN AGONY FOR THE SYMBIOTE. EVEN AFTER THE DARKHOLD CURSE GAVE IT ITS IMMUNITY TO FIRE AND SOUND.

"IT MUST HAVE KNOWN IT WAS GIVING ITS LIFE FOR HIS.

"BORN AND REBORN FROM THE TENDRILS OF THE ABYSS.

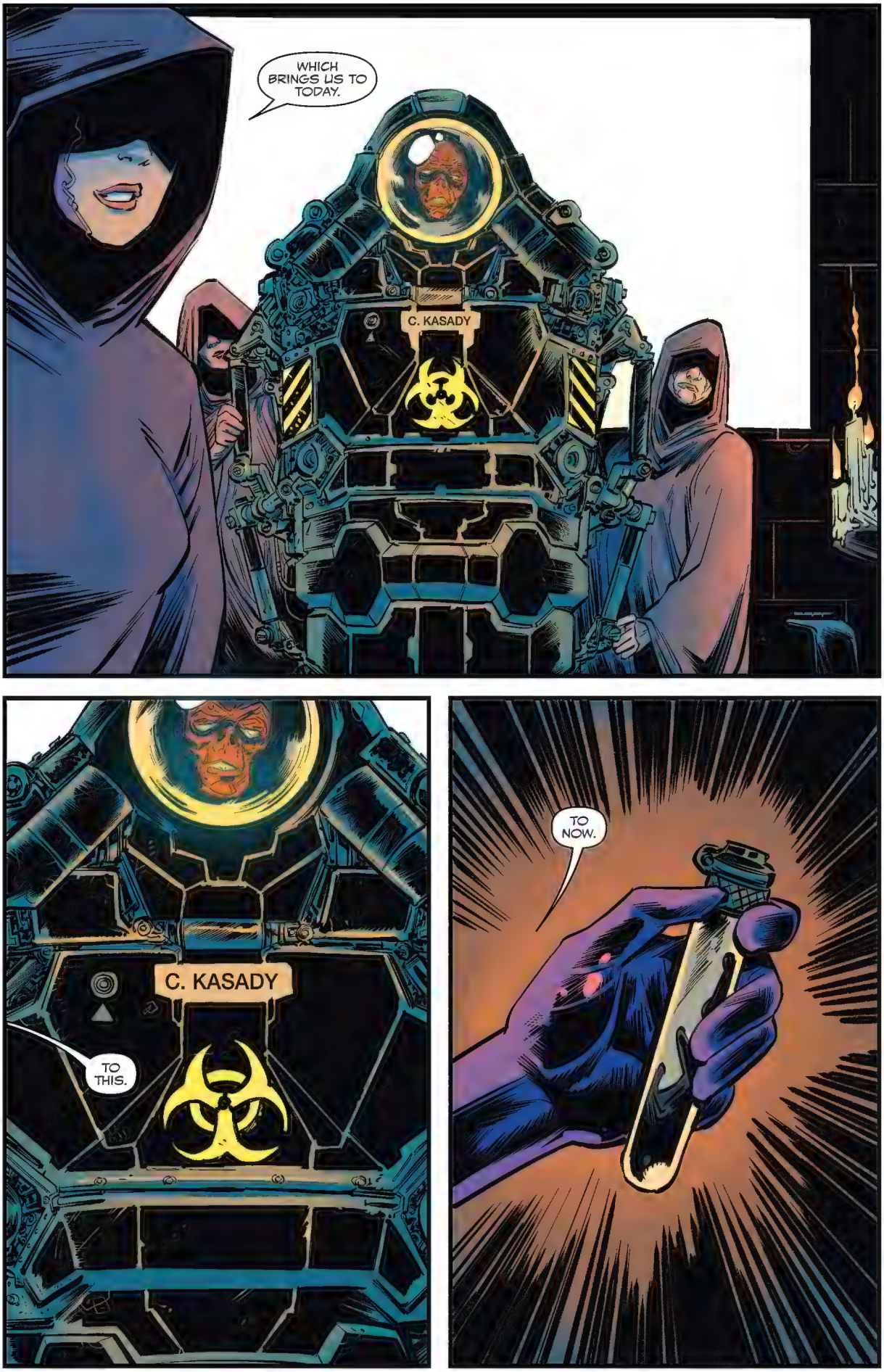
"IT WAS, WITHOUT A DOUBT, CLETUS KASADY'S MOST BEAUTIFUL REBIRTH YET.

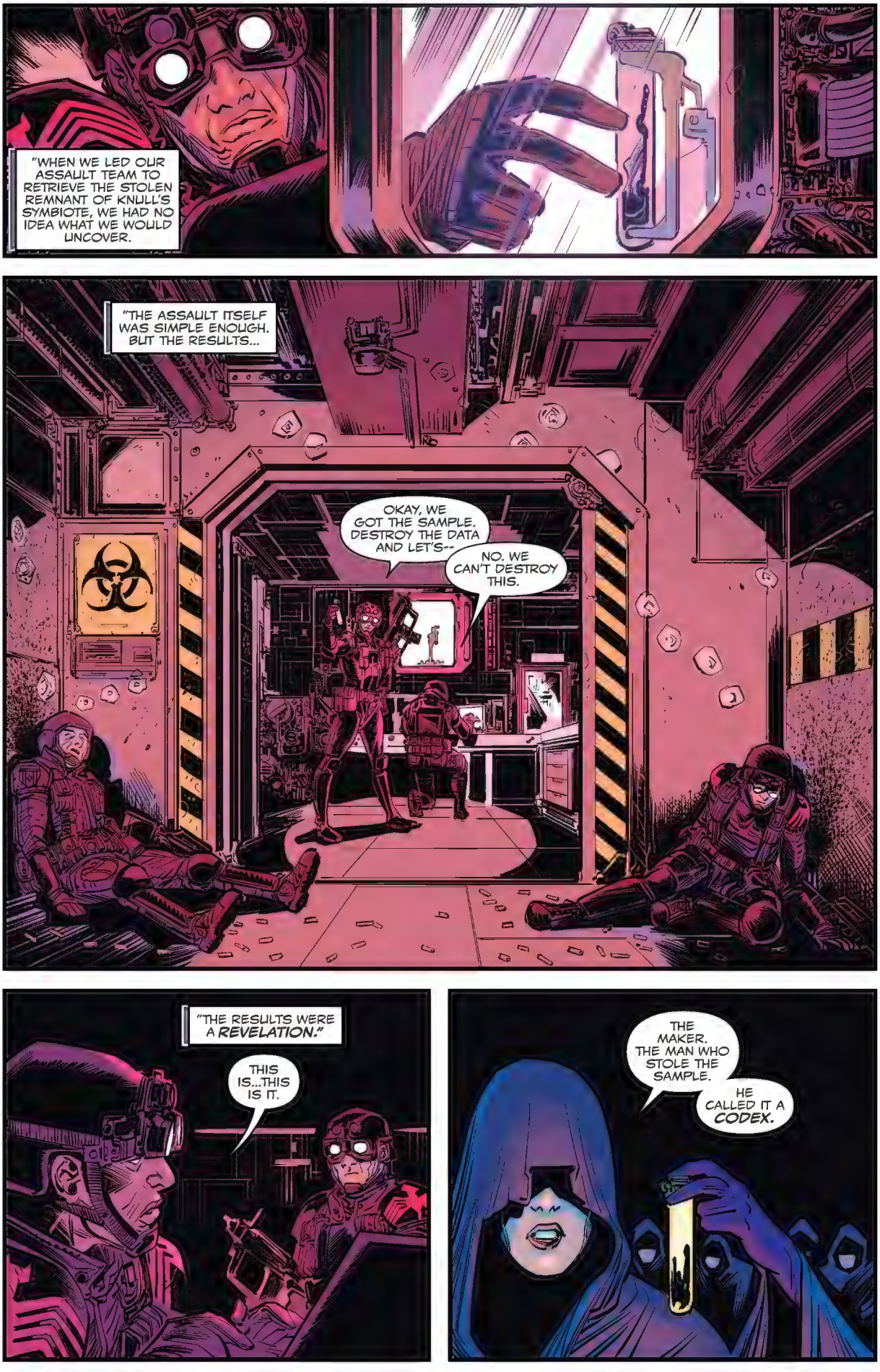

"BUT AS BEAUTIFUL AS THIS BIRTH WAS, IT WAS NOT WITHOUT ITS OWN... COSMIC SYMMETRY.
"BECAUSE MINUTES AFTER CLETUS ROSE AND FELL BACK TO EARTH...
MUHH! UH!
NUU...
NNNOO...


"...HE DIED.

"LOCALS FOUND HIS BODY AND TURNED HIM IN TO THE AUTHORITIES.

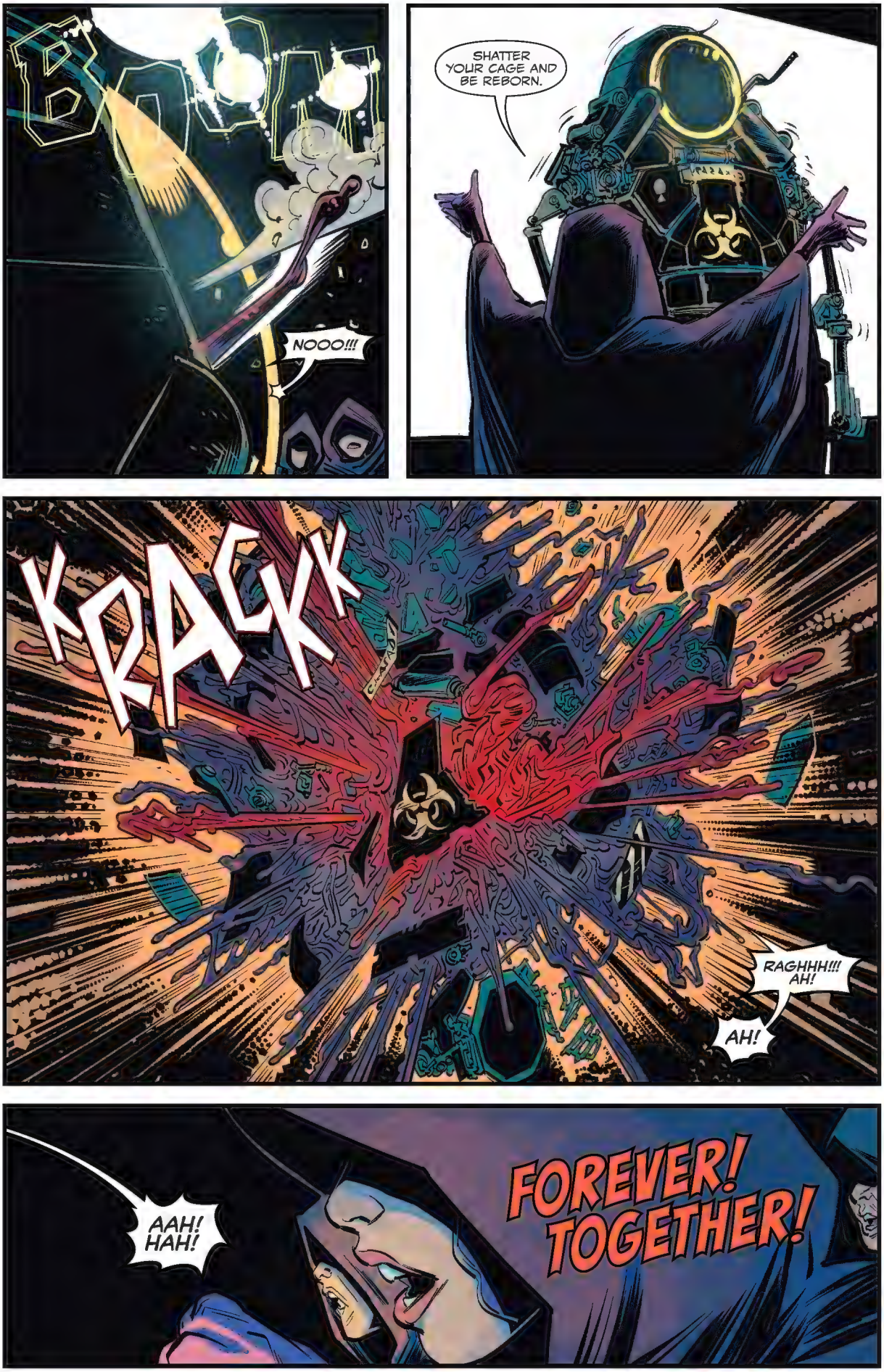
"HE WAS IDENTIFIED BY HIS DENTAL RECORDS, AND HIS NAME SENT SEVERAL HUNDRED RED FLAGS SCREAMING TO THE TOP OF EVERY AGENCY'S WATCH LIST.
"BUT WE...WE *WATCH* THE WATCH LISTS.
"THERE WAS QUITE A BATTLE TO RETRIEVE HIS BODY.
"MANY OF THEIR MEN DIED.
"FEWER OF OURS DID."


WHICH BRINGS US TO TODAY.
C. KASADY
C. KASADY
TO THIS.
TO NOW.


"WHEN WE LED OUR ASSAULT TEAM TO RETRIEVE THE STOLEN REMNANT OF KNULL'S SYMBIOTE, WE HAD NO IDEA WHAT WE WOULD UNCOVER.
"THE ASSAULT ITSELF WAS SIMPLE ENOUGH. BUT THE RESULTS...
OKAY, WE GOT THE SAMPLE. DESTROY THE DATA AND LET'S--
NO. WE CAN'T DESTROY THIS.
"THE RESULTS WERE A REVELATION."
THIS IS...THIS IS IT.
THE MAKER. THE MAN WHO STOLE THE SAMPLE.
HE CALLED IT A CODEX.

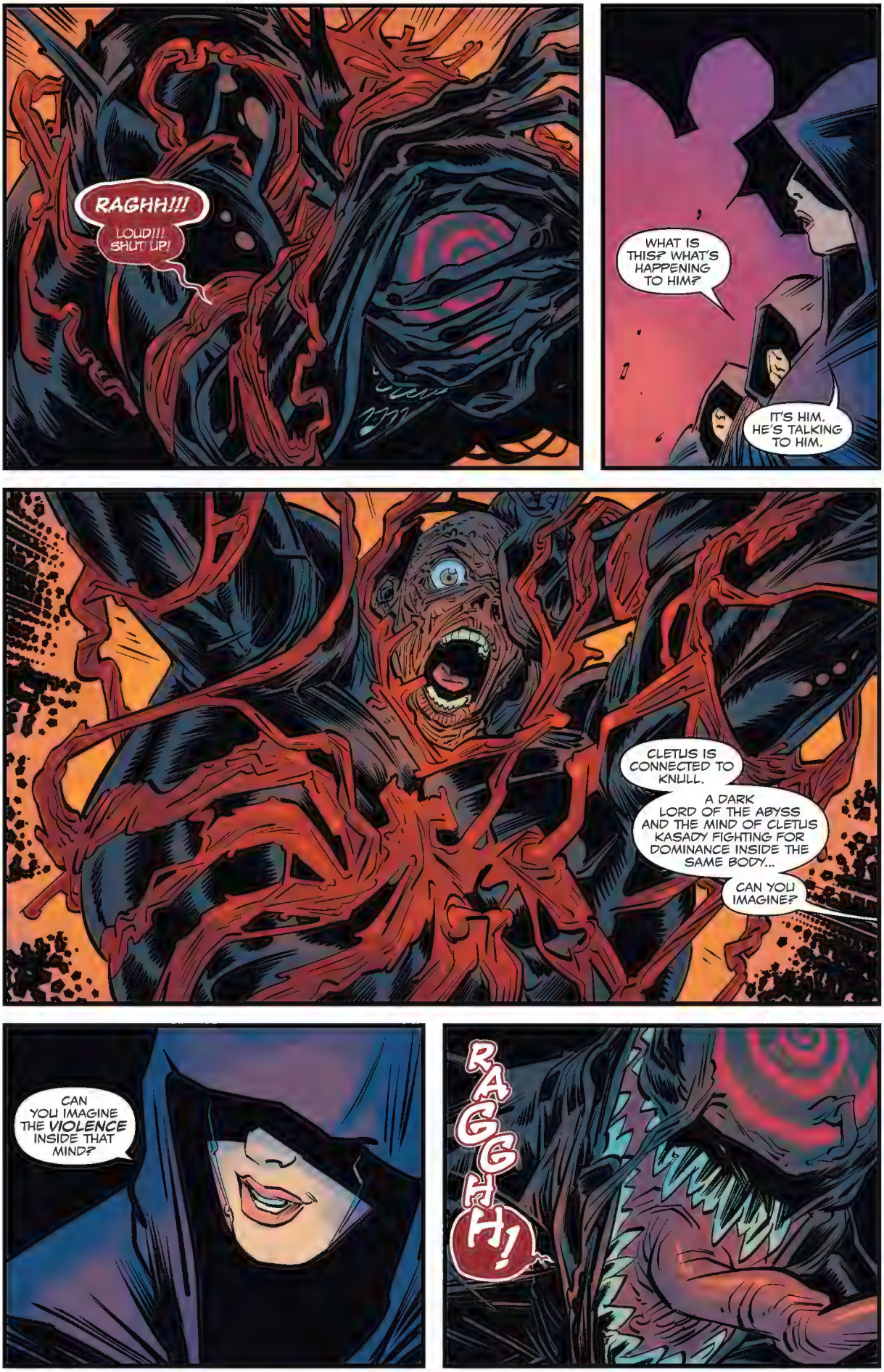
WE HAVE LONG THOUGHT THAT WHEN A SYMBIOTE LEAVES A HOST, ITS INFLUENCE, ITS CONNECTION... IS LOST.
THIS IS NOT THE CASE.
EVERY SYMBIOTE LEAVES BEHIND A GENETIC IMPRINT OF ITSELF. WRAPPED AROUND THE DNA HELIX OF ITS HOST.
IT WAS THEORIZED BY THE MAKER THAT THIS CODEX WAS USED TO COMMUNICATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE HOST TO THE COLLECTIVE SYMBIOTE HIVE.
DO YOU SEE WHAT THAT MEANS?
IT MEANS THAT WITH THIS SAMPLE...THIS TINY PIECE OF KNULL'S DRAGON...
...WE CAN TALK TO GOD.
IF EVERY SYMBIOTE LEAVES A TRACE OF ITSELF ON ITS HOST...
...THEN THIS SAMPLE MUST CONTAIN THE PSYCHIC REMNANTS OF KNULL'S CONNECTION.
OF HIS VOICE.
C.KASADY
ALL WE NEED...

...IS AN AMPLIFIER.
HUH!
RAGHH!!!
C. KASADY
NAAGH!!! NUUU!!!
THAT'S IT...

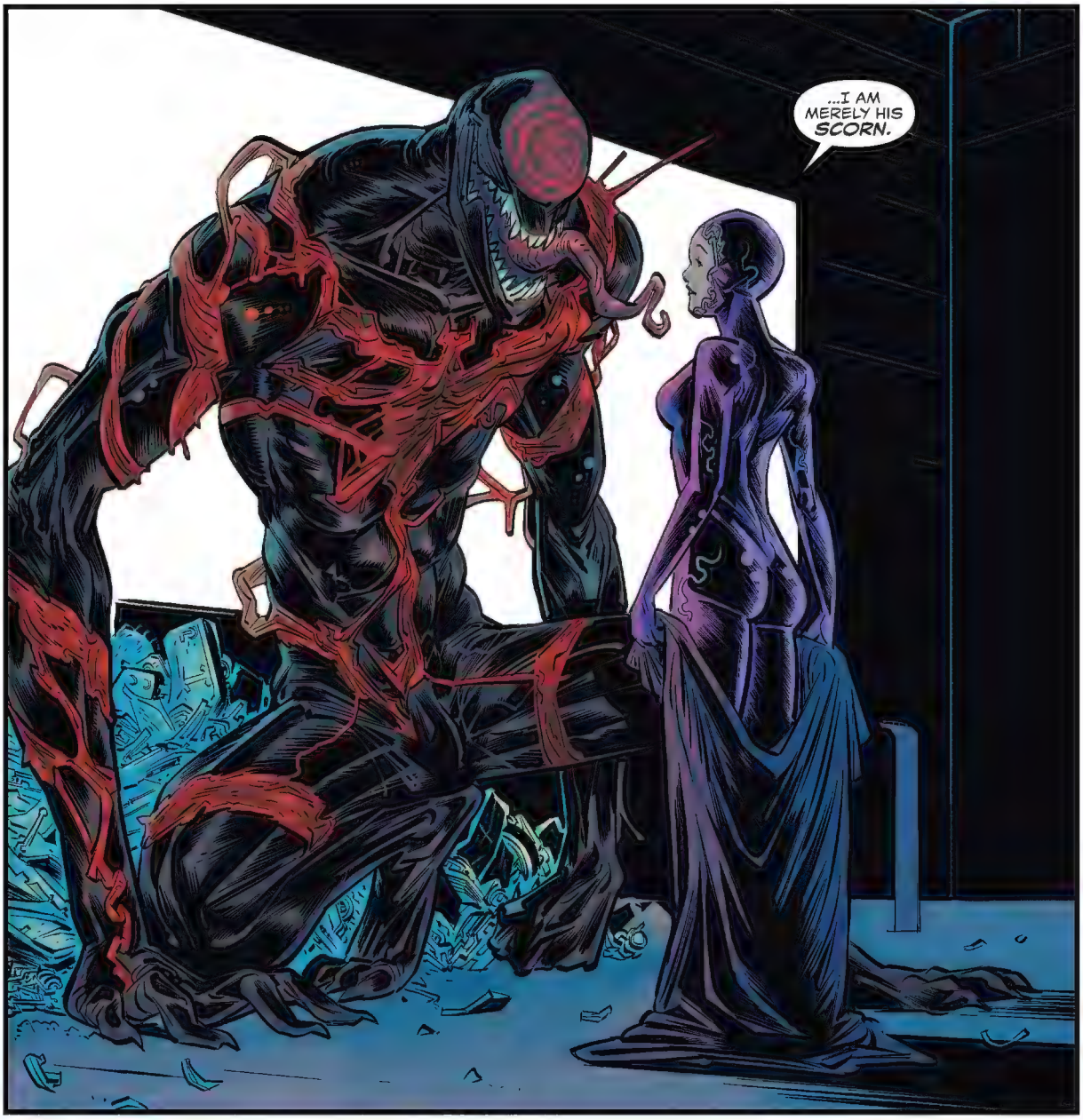

BOOM
NOOO!!!
SHATTER YOUR CAGE AND BE REBORN.
KRACKK
RAGHHH!!!
AH!
AH!
AAH! HAH!
FOREVER! TOGETHER!

HAHAHAHAHA!!!

FOREVER!
TOGETHER!
FOREVER!
TOGETHER!


RAGHH!!!
LOUD!!! SHUT UP!
WHAT IS THIS? WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM?
IT'S HIM. HE'S TALKING TO HIM.
CLETUS IS CONNECTED TO KNULL.
A DARK LORD OF THE ABYSS AND THE MIND OF CLETUS KASADY FIGHTING FOR DOMINANCE INSIDE THE SAME BODY...
CAN YOU IMAGINE?
CAN YOU IMAGINE THE VIOLENCE INSIDE THAT MIND?
RAGGHH!

CLETUS, I KNOW YOU HURT.
I KNOW THE ABYSS IS DARK.
I KNOW YOU ARE INCOMPLETE.
BUT I CAN HELP YOU.
THE SYMBIOTES LEAVE A PIECE OF THEMSELVES BEHIND IN EVERY HOST THEY BOND WITH.
I HAVE ONE AS WELL. I CAN FEEL IT SWIRLING INSIDE ME.
YOU ARE OUR GOD'S DARK CARNAGE MADE FLESH...

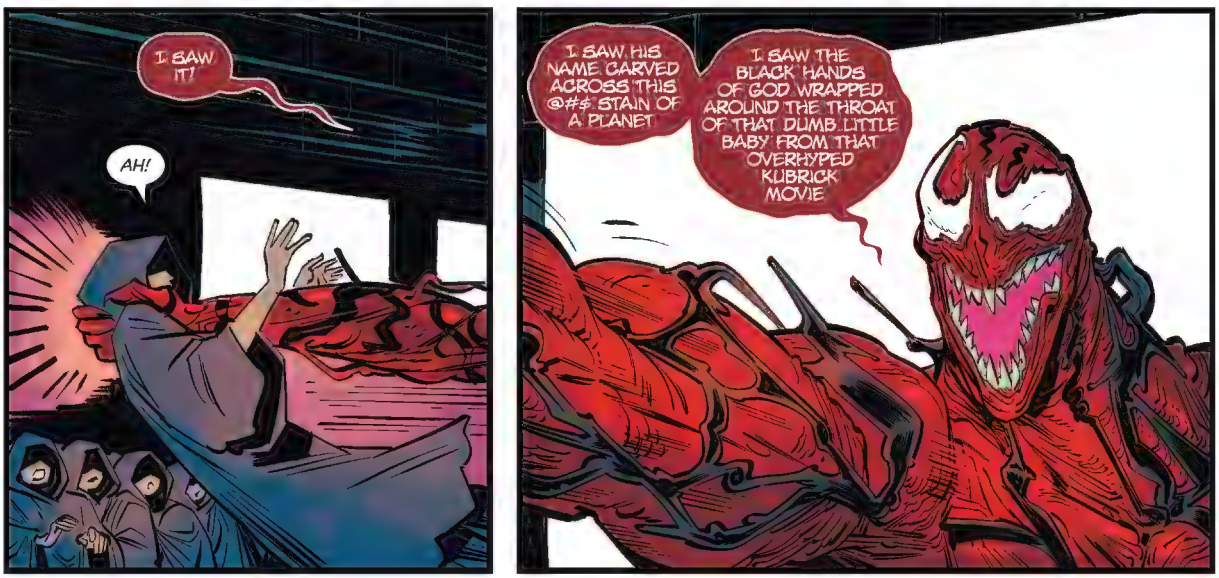

...I AM MERELY HIS SCORN.

I OFFER MY CODEX TO YOU SO THAT YOU MAY BE MADE WHOLE.
THE SURGERY IS PRECISE. DIFFICULT.
BUT WITH THE MAKER'S RESEARCH, WE BELIEVE WE CAN--

AH!

SHRIIIP
AGHHH!!
AHH...

YOU... HEHE... YOU LOONIES WERE RIGHT
I DO FEEL BETTER AFTER A SNACK
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL THAT KNULL @#$% WAS ALL ABOUT...
...BUT DADDY NEEDS MORE


I SAW IT!
AH!
I SAW HIS NAME CARVED ACROSS THIS @#$ STAIN OF A PLANET
I SAW THE BLACK HANDS OF GOD WRAPPED AROUND THE THROAT OF THAT DUMB LITTLE BABY FROM THAT OVERHYPED KUBRICK MOVIE

AND THEN I REALIZED THOSE WERE MY HANDS ON THAT BABY'S THROAT.
AND SO I SQUEEZED.
I WANT TO KILL THAT BABY AGAIN, MEAT. I WANT TO TALK TO THAT GOD AGAIN.
HOW DO I DO THAT?
THE--THE CODEXES.
WE THINK THAT...THAT IF YOU ABSORB ALL THE PIECES THE SYMBIOTES LEFT IN THEIR HOSTS, YOU CAN MAKE HIS SYMBIOTE COMPLETE... AND REJOIN THE HIVE...
...AND AWAKEN KNULL...
...AND WE-- WE CAN SET HIM FREE.
GOODY.
WHERE ARE THEY?
WH-WHERE?
THEY'RE-- THEY'RE ATTACHED TO THE DNA OF EVERYONE WHO HAS EVER WORN A SYMBIOTE, CLETUS.
THEY'RE EVERYWHERE.
HUGK!
SPLORTCH
HA! WELL, I'LL BE DAMNED...

...I SUPPOSE I BETTER GET TO WORK.

CARNAGE BORN #1 VARIANT BY **IAN BEDERMAN**

VENOM UNLEASHED #1

WEB OF VENOM

DISGRACED REPORTER **EDDIE BROCK** STUMBLED UPON AN AGGRESSIVE ALIEN ORGANISM, CALLED THE SYMBIOTE, DURING ONE OF THE LOWEST POINTS OF HIS LIFE. SHARING A SIMILAR NEED FOR VENGEANCE, THE SYMBIOTE BONDED WITH EDDIE AND THEIR UNION GRANTED HIM POWERS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF SPIDER-MAN, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF OTHER UNIQUE ABILITIES.

VENOM UNLEASHED

AFTER AN INCREDIBLY STRAINING CONFLICT WITH A MONSTROUS SYMBIOTE DRAGON, THE VENOM SYMBIOTE NO LONGER HAS A PERSONALITY OR A VOICE. INSTEAD, IT IS AN AMORPHOUS ALIEN ORGANISM, RESPONDING TO THE SUBCONSCIOUS IMPULSES OF ITS HOST, EDDIE BROCK.

HOWEVER, IN SPITE OF ITS SILENCE, THE SYMBIOTE HAS TAMPERED WITH EDDIE'S MEMORIES AND LED HIM BACK TO HIS CHILDHOOD HOME OF SAN FRANCISCO.

AS EDDIE SEARCHES FOR ANSWERS, VENOM HAS TRANSFORMED INTO A HULKING DOG IN ORDER TO KEEP ITS HOST SAFE...

MOTEL
VACANCY
POOL
broooooockkk
OFFIC
OPEN
edwarddddddd...
Brock, Edward
Room: 237
2
3
7
edwarddddddddddd...
brockkkkkkkkk

2...
3...
7...
-WHIMPER-
-WHINE-
-WHINE-
WHASSAMADDAHH...
ZZZZZZZ...
SHUNK

CLINK
brock?
SHUNK
237
brock?
brock

RAAWWWRRR!
edward?

BRRRRROOOOOOCKKKKKK...
SPLUTCH
SHHRRIPP
brock...
2...3...7...
2...
3...
7...
HA HA HA

#WHIMPER#
SNF SNF
HRMP!
SNF! SNF!
THUD

garrrgannn...
gaaarrrrrrgggannnn...
mulligannnn...
diegooooo...
donnnnnnaaaaaa...
RR?
GRRRRRRRRRR
RRR?

GRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
GRRAAAAHH!
RARRF! RARRF! RARR--
CHOMP

RRAAAARRR

-WHIMPER-
-WHINE-
-WHIMPER-
HAHAHA
GRRRRRRR
-WHIMPER-
-WHIMPER-
SPLOOOOSHHHH

fortunadooooooo...
harrrrdddyyyyyy...
CRREEEAKK
TARGET ACQUIRED.
RRR?
URFFF!
DRILLING SPINDLE ENGAGED.

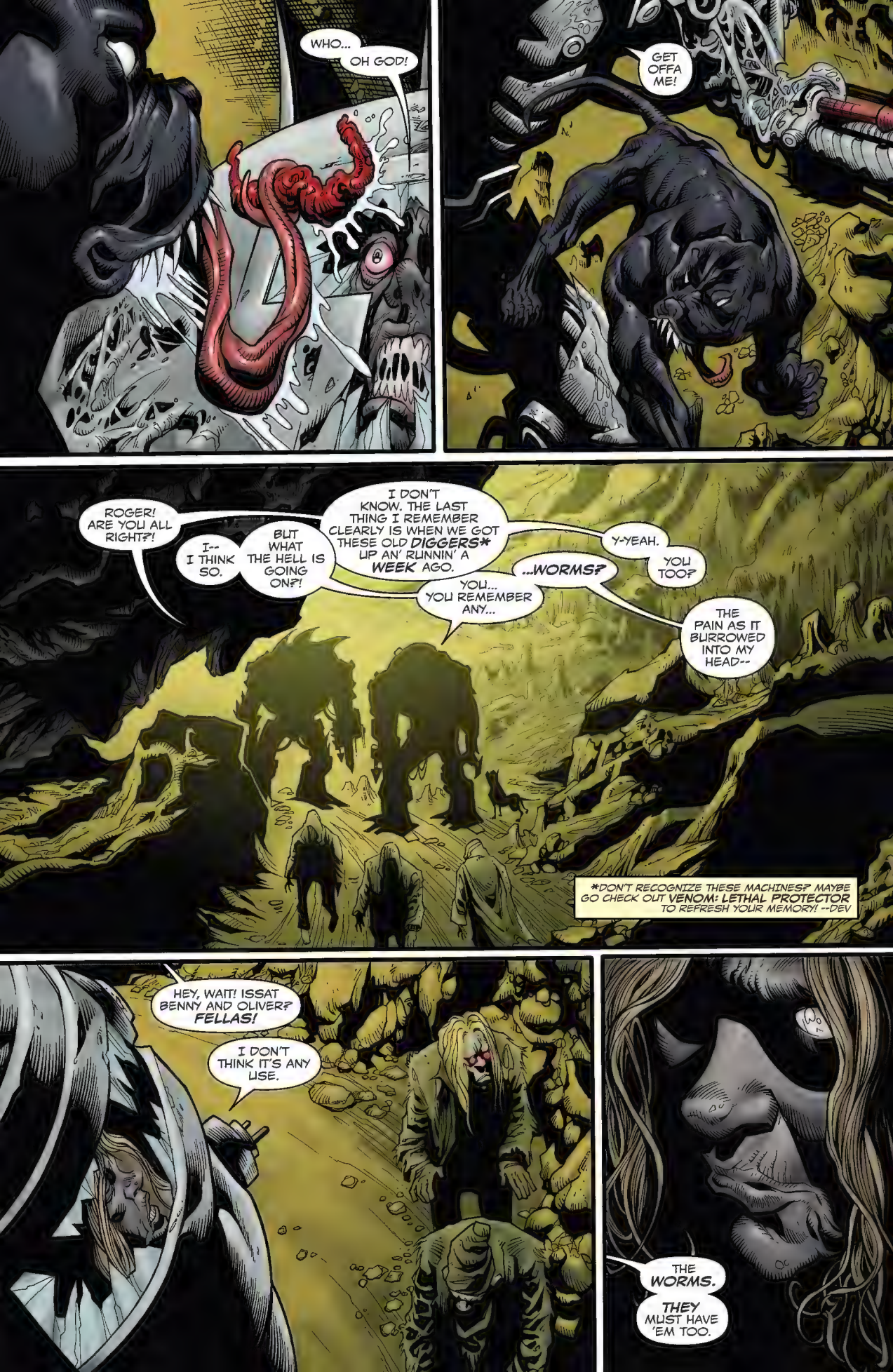
AWOO...
brock?
TARGET ACQUIRED.
KRONCH
SONIC EXCAVATORS ENGAGED.
WOOO

KRASHHHH
SKASSSSHHH

WOOO

HELP...
NNGHH--
N-NO... DON'T HURT--
SNF

S-STAY AWAY FROM HIM OR...OR I'LL SHOOT.
protect..
proooottteeeccccttttt..
DON'T HURT HIM!
SNF
prooooo--
--teeeccccttttttt..
SPULCH
I'M WARNING YOU--
SPILCH


WHO...
OH GOD!
GET OFFA ME!
ROGER! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
I-- I THINK SO.
BUT WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!
I DON'T KNOW. THE LAST THING I REMEMBER CLEARLY IS WHEN WE GOT THESE OLD DIGGERS* UP AN' RUNNIN' A WEEK AGO.
YOU... YOU REMEMBER ANY...
Y-YEAH. YOU TOO?
...WORMS?
THE PAIN AS IT BURROWED INTO MY HEAD--
*DON'T RECOGNIZE THESE MACHINES? MAYBE GO CHECK OUT VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR TO REFRESH YOUR MEMORY! --DEV
HEY, WAIT! ISSAT BENNY AND OLIVER? FELLAS!
I DON'T THINK IT'S ANY USE.
WO...
THE WORMS.
THEY MUST HAVE 'EM TOO.

THAT DOG EXTRACTED THE ONE IN YOUR HEAD.
HE SAVED YOU.
BUT HOW DID I--
I VAGUELY REMEMBER HITTING YOU WITH A SONIC BLAST.
SORRY.
YEAH. BUT HOW DO WE FIX IT?
HOW DID WE GET FIXED?
SO THAT MUST HAVE SNAPPED ME OUT OF IT.
THAT'D BE MY BEST GUESS.
SO IF WE USE SONICS ON THE OTHERS IN THE COMMUNITY THEN THAT SHOULD FREE THEM. RIGHT?
IT'S WORTH A SHOT.

OH... MY...

GOD IS GRWAGE

...GOD.

GOD IS HERE!

+WHIMPER+

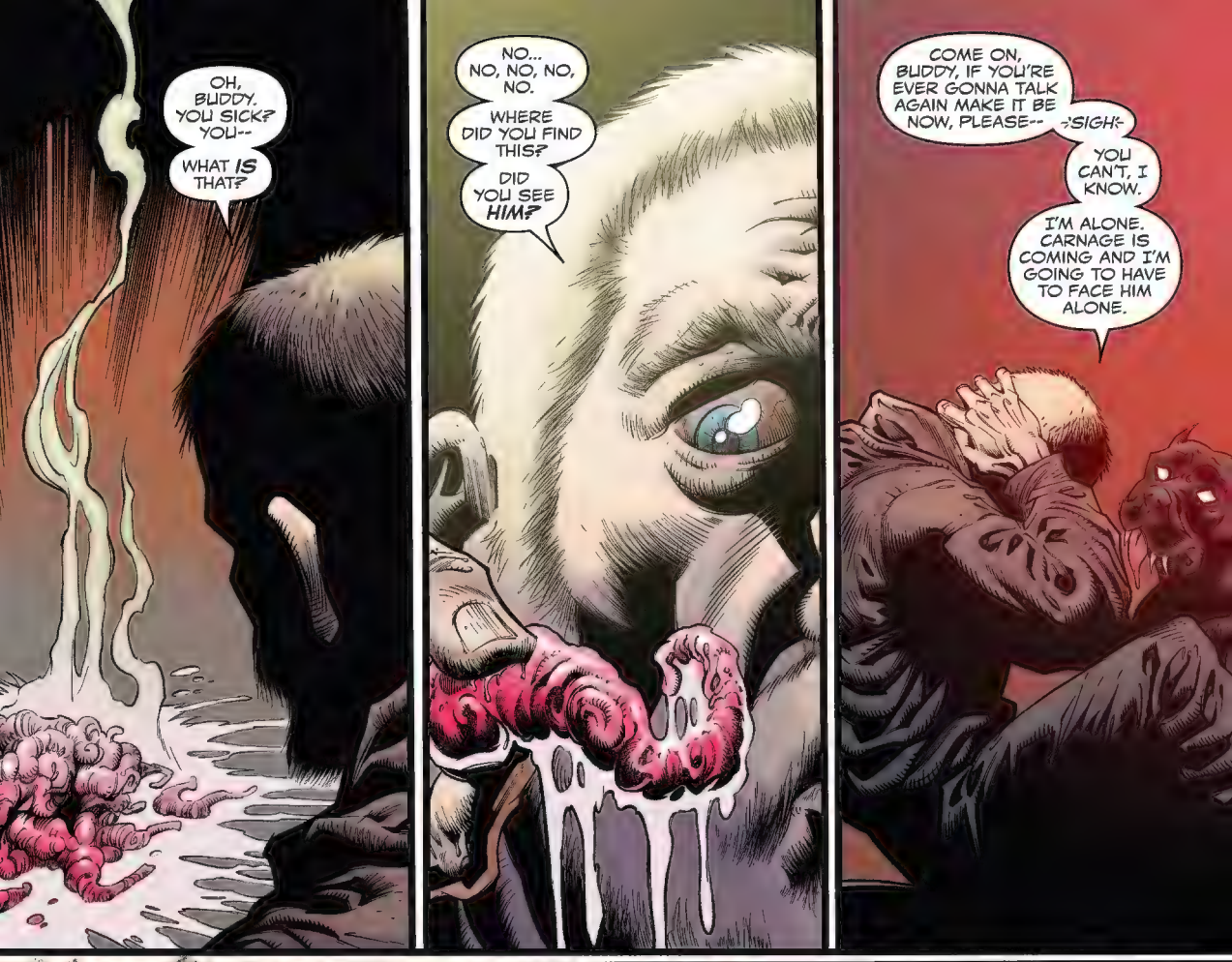
+WHIMPER+

"DOG!
"DOGGO! WHASSAMATTER, BOY?"

RRRF.
WE CAN TRY TO CLEAN THINGS UP HERE, BUT WE NEED YOU TO ROUND UP THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS THAT LEFT AND EXTRACT THEIR WORMS.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?!
CAN YOU DO THAT?
RARF!
RAAAARRR!
BWOOOOOOONNCCCC

SKRTCH
SKRATCH
SKRTCH
SKRTCH
SKRTCH
SKRATCH
SKRTCH
SKRATCH
SKRATCH
MOTEL
SKRTCH
SKRATCH
SKRATCH

HELLO?
OH THANK GOD--
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED? ARE YOU OKAY?
WHERE WERE YOU?
GAKK--
GAAAKKKKK

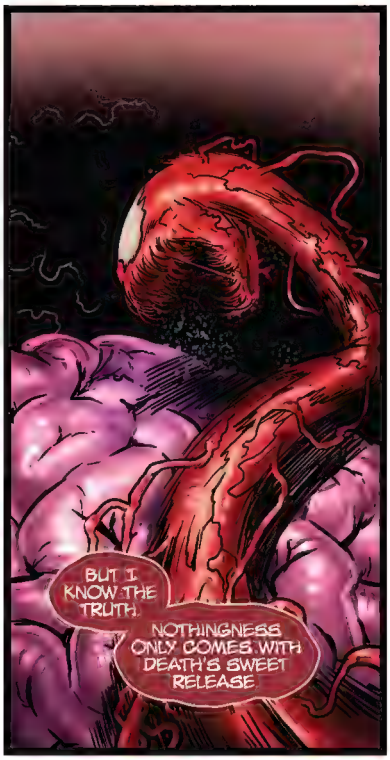

OH, BUDDY. YOU SICK? YOU--
WHAT IS THAT?
NO... NO, NO, NO, NO.
WHERE DID YOU FIND THIS?
DID YOU SEE HIM?
COME ON, BUDDY, IF YOU'RE EVER GONNA TALK AGAIN MAKE IT BE NOW, PLEASE--
-SIGH-
YOU CAN'T, I KNOW.
I'M ALONE. CARNAGE IS COMING AND I'M GOING TO HAVE TO FACE HIM ALONE.

GOOD DOG.

HELP--
MMMMMFFFFF--
IT'S FUNNY.
PEOPLE USED TO CALL ME A DEVIL.

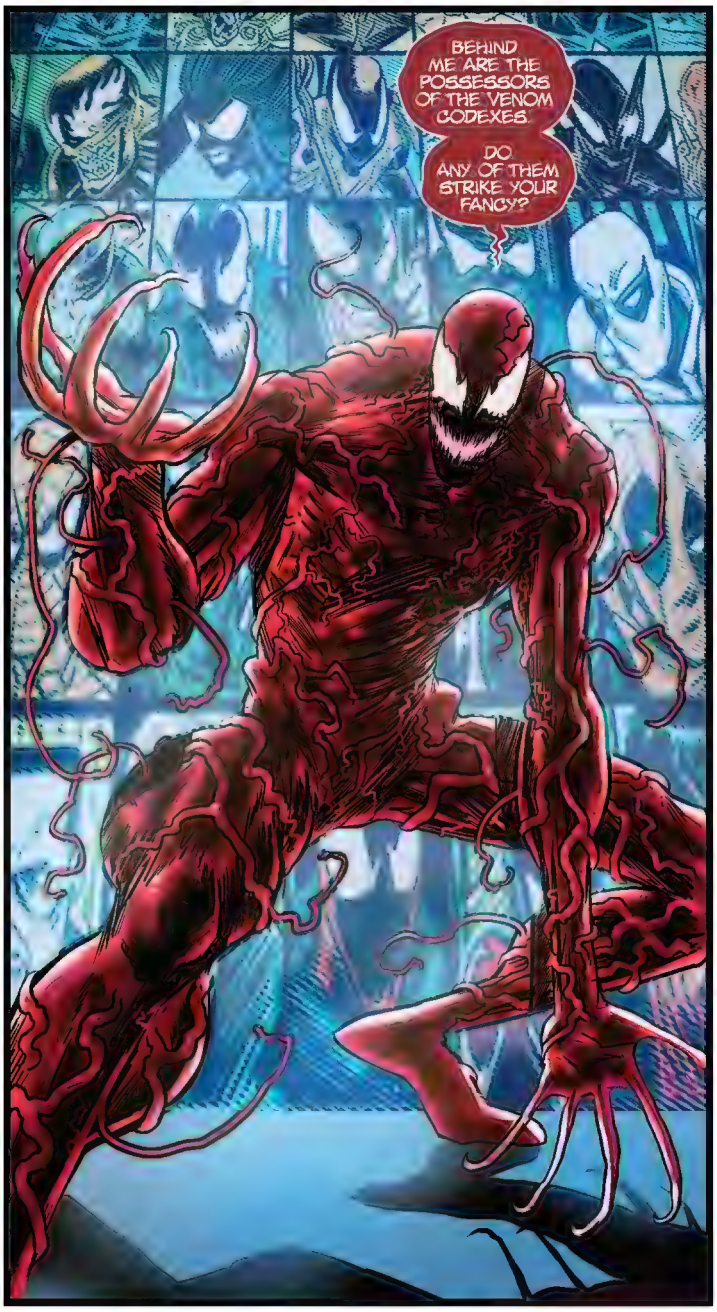
FOR FREEING PEOPLE FROM THEIR CAGES.

THEY SPEND THEIR LIVES IN A HAZE OF ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION. THEIR MINDS CLUTTERED.
THEY LONG TO THINK AND FEEL NOTHING.
TO THEM THAT IS BLISS.
NNNNGGGGHHHH...


BUT I KNOW THE TRUTH.
NOTHINGNESS ONLY COMES WITH DEATH'S SWEET RELEASE

CHOMP
I'M KIND OF AN EXPERT.
AAAAAAHHHHHH!!
I'VE BEEN DEAD THREE TIMES.
I CHERISH MY TRIPS TO THE ABYSS.
SNAP
AAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHH...
IN THE ABYSS THERE IS NO SELF. NO PAIN. NO SUFFERING.
I WANT TO SHARE THAT WITH EVERYONE.
MY PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS AT MAKING THIS HAPPEN WERE HAPHAZARD I ADMIT.
I WAS THINKING TOO SMALL.
BUT THINGS HAVE CHANGED.

I'VE BEEN PRESENTED WITH A ROAD MAP TO GIVE THE GIFT OF THE ABYSS TO ALL.
BUT TO DO THAT I NEED SOLDIERS.
SOLDIERS TO HUNT DOWN DADDY DEAREST--VENOM--AND ALL THE OTHER SYMBIOTIC SICKOS ON THIS HUNK OF ROCK.
NNNNNFFFFF--
OH. RIGHT. TROUBLE TALKING.
THE WHOLE BRAIN PARASITE THING.
HEH.
AND THEN. THEN I WILL BE ABLE TO BRING THE ABYSS TO ALL.
DOES FREEING THE ENTIRETY OF HUMANITY FROM PAIN AND SUFFERING APPEAL TO YOU?


BEHIND ME ARE THE POSSESSORS OF THE VENOM CODEXES.
DO ANY OF THEM STRIKE YOUR FANCY?

AH. YESSSSS...

MY PROGENITOR AND NEMESIS, EDDIE BROCK!
I KNEW I LIKED YOU FOR A REASON.

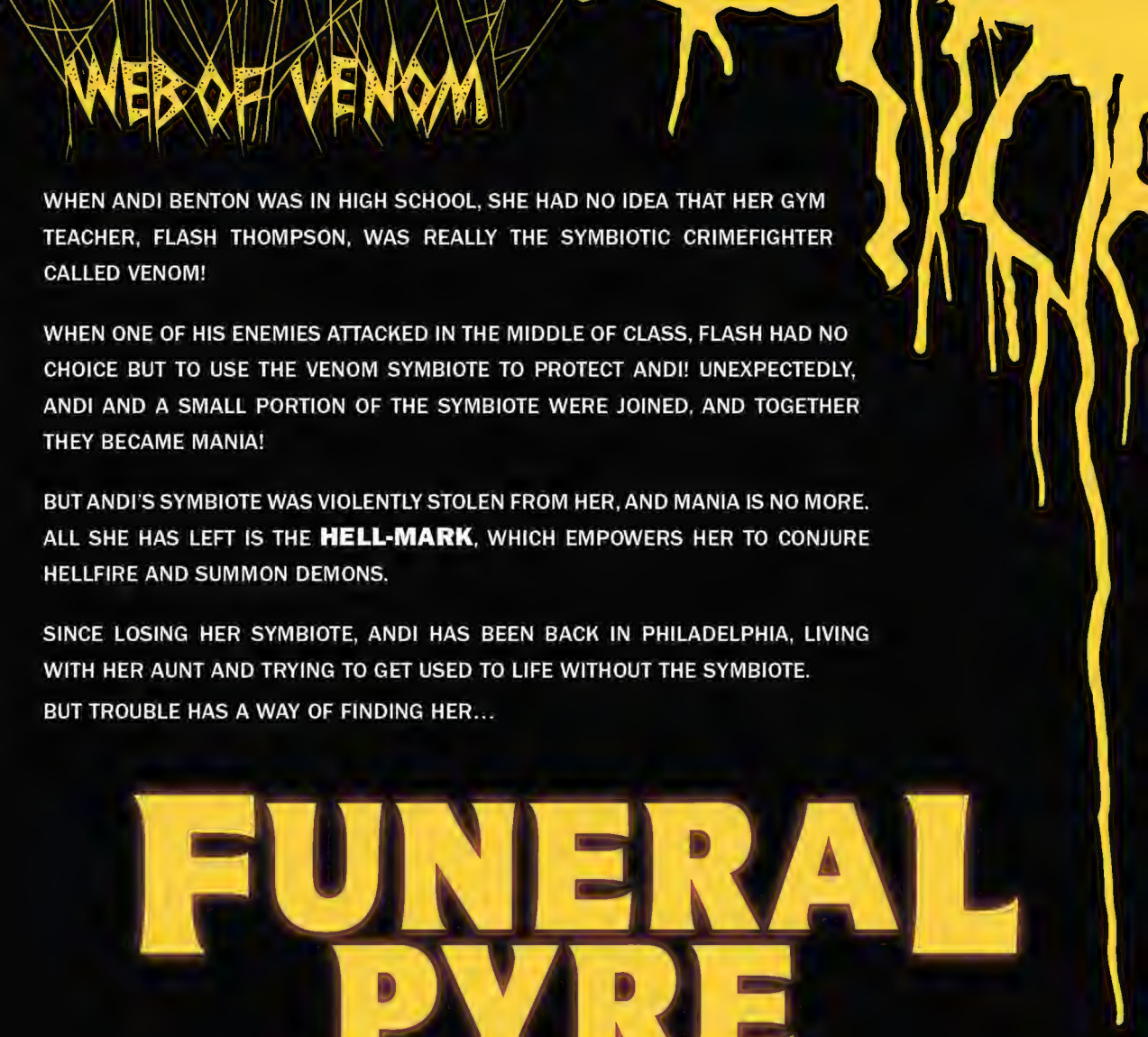
BRING HIM TO ME AND YOU WILL BE A HERO TO ALL OF HUMANITY.

NOW GO.

eeeeddddwwwwwaaaaaaarrrdddd...
broooooccckkkkkk...
IT'S FUNNY.
PEOPLE USED TO CALL ME A DEVIL.
BUT WHEN I'M THROUGH WITH THEM, THEY WILL REVERE ME AS A GOD.

VENOM UNLEASHED #1 VARIANT BY **NICK BRADSHAW** & **CHRIS SOTOMAYOR**

FUNERAL PYRE #1



WHEN ANDI BENTON WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL, SHE HAD NO IDEA THAT HER GYM TEACHER, FLASH THOMPSON, WAS REALLY THE SYMBIOTIC CRIMEFIGHTER CALLED VENOM!

WHEN ONE OF HIS ENEMIES ATTACKED IN THE MIDDLE OF CLASS, FLASH HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO USE THE VENOM SYMBIOTE TO PROTECT ANDI! UNEXPECTEDLY, ANDI AND A SMALL PORTION OF THE SYMBIOTE WERE JOINED, AND TOGETHER THEY BECAME MANIA!

BUT ANDI'S SYMBIOTE WAS VIOLENTLY STOLEN FROM HER, AND MANIA IS NO MORE. ALL SHE HAS LEFT IS THE **HELL-MARK**, WHICH EMPOWERS HER TO CONJURE HELLFIRE AND SUMMON DEMONS.

SINCE LOSING HER SYMBIOTE, ANDI HAS BEEN BACK IN PHILADELPHIA, LIVING WITH HER AUNT AND TRYING TO GET USED TO LIFE WITHOUT THE SYMBIOTE.

BUT TROUBLE HAS A WAY OF FINDING HER...

FUNERAL PYRE

....MMMNNNGG...
TASTES--
....MMM...
--SO GOOD!
YEEEEAAAGGHHH!
THROK
GET--
--OFF!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, ANDI?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN SLIP AWAY!
YOU CAN'T GET AWAY FROM US!
WE'RE PART OF YOU!
YOU'LL NEVER BE FREE!

GASP!
ANOTHER NIGHTMARE
FOURTH ONE THIS WEEK
AT LEAST I DIDN'T WAKE UP SCREAMING THIS TIME
EITHER THEY'RE EASING UP...
...OR I'M GETTING USED TO THEM...
AUNT SARAH?

HEY, ANDI.
GOOD MORNING.
WANT SOME BREAKFAST? I'M MAKING SCRAMBLED EGGS.

NO, THANKS.
YOU KNOW I'M NOT MUCH OF AN EGGS PERSON.
MAYBE I'LL JUST HAVE SOME--

POP

SO.
NO DREAMS LAST NIGHT?

...
MISSING
DONNA DIEGO
THAT'S JAM

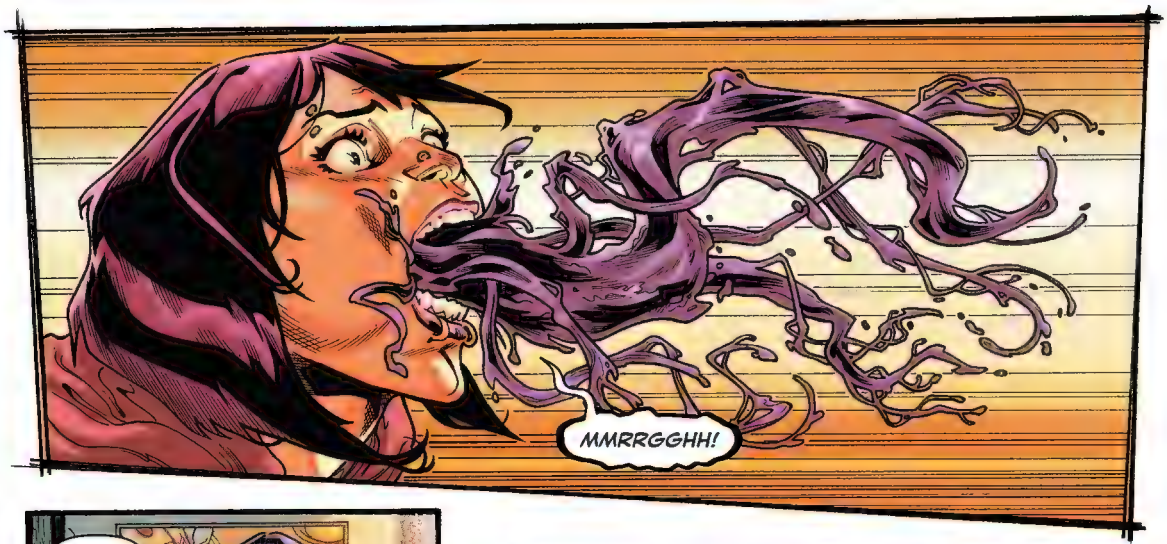
SLEPT LIKE A BABY.
FZZZZZ
THAT'S A SURPRISE, CONSIDERING YOUR CAFFEINE INTAKE.
A POP FOR BREAKFAST?
REALLY, ANDI?
I'M NOT A KID ANYMORE.
SODA
I KNOW, I KNOW.
BUT I'M NOT QUITE DONE LOOKING OUT FOR YOU.
FOR NOW, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO PUT UP WITH ME WORRYING FOR A WHILE LONGER.
HEH.
I WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY.

IT'S CUTE HOW AUNT SARAH FAWNS OVER ME.
LORD KNOWS I'VE GIVEN HER ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT.
BUT IF SHE EVER REALIZED THE TRUTH...IF SHE FOUND OUT ABOUT ALL THE THINGS I'VE BEEN THROUGH...
SHE'D LOSE HER @#$%
FOR ME, THE HORROR--THE NIGHTMARES--STARTED WHERE THEY ALWAYS DO.
HIGH SCHOOL GYM CLASS.
THAT'S WHERE I MET FLASH THOMPSON.
THE ASSISTANT COACH. A VET WHO LOST HIS LEGS.
FLASH HAD A SECRET
WE ALL DO.
HIS WAS JUST BIGGER THAN MOST.
HE WAS A SUPER HERO.
AGENT VENOM.
BONDED TO--POSSESSED BY AN ALIEN SYMBIOTE THAT GAVE HIM INCREDIBLE POWERS.
IF I'M BEING HONEST...
...HE WASN'T ALL THAT GREAT AT THE JOB.

IN AN ATTEMPT TO SAVE ME, HE ACCIDENTALLY TURNED ME INTO MANIA...
...SORT OF A SUPER HERO IN MY OWN RIGHT
I MIGHT'VE BEEN JUST AS BAD AT IT AS HE WAS.
MY SYMBIOTE WAS STOLEN FROM ME...
...RIPPED RIGHT OFF ME IN THE STREETS OF NEW YORK.
FLASH USED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT PHANTOM LIMB SYNDROME.
HEY, ANDI!
HE SAID HE COULD STILL FEEL HIS LEGS EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE GONE.
NOW, WITHOUT MY SYMBIOTE...
...I THINK I KNOW HOW HE FELT.

I WOULDN'T SAY I'VE ADJUSTED.
BUT I'M STARTING TO ADAPT.
I'M GETTING MY ACT TOGETHER.
GIVE ME A SEC, GUYS. THIS'LL NEED WAAAAAAAAY MORE SUGAR.
I'VE EVEN MADE FRIENDS.
NORMAL FRIENDS.
IT EASES THE PHANTOM PAIN.
THAT HELPS.
MAKES ME THINK THAT IF I KEEP WORKING AT IT, I MIGHT LEAVE ALL THE NIGHTMARES--
SGGH-SLLSH
SLLSH
SGLK
SLLLSH
--BEHIND ME
SLLLSH

NEVER!
NEVER, AND!
NEVER FREE!
WE'RE PART OF YOU!
DEEP INSIDE!
MANIA IS A PART OF YOU!
NESTING IN YOUR CELLS!
AHHH--


MMRRGGHH!

OH...OH GOD!

AND!?
ARE YOU OKAY?

YOU JUST SORT OF...FROZE UP.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE HAVING A SEIZURE OR SOMETHING.
I...
...I'M ALL RIGHT.
I...
I THINK.

MY FRIENDS SMILE.
THEY LAUGH IT OFF.
BUT THERE'S A FALSENESS TO THEIR SMILES.
A DISCOMFORT UNDER THEIR LAUGHTER.
NONE OF THEM ASK, BUT THEY'RE ALL WONDERING.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ANDI?
CAN'T BLAME THEM.
IF I KNEW THE ANSWER, I'D TELL THEM.

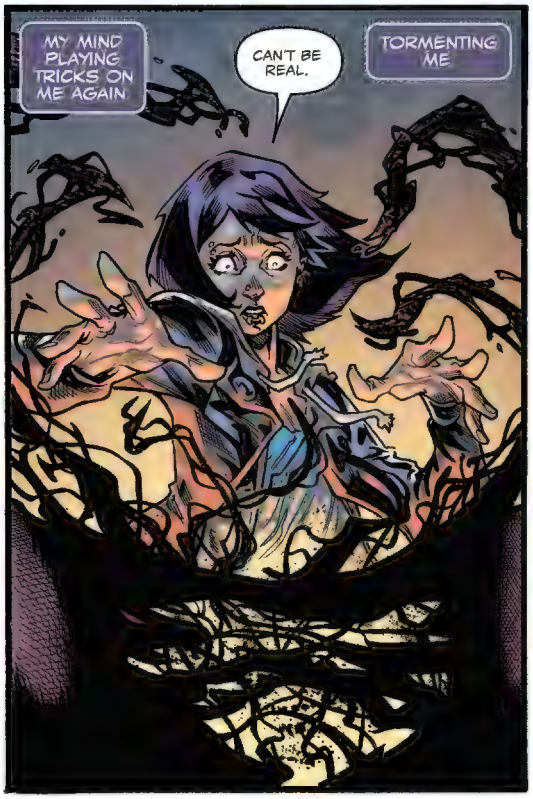
IF THEY COULD BE CHILL THROUGH THE WHOLE "I USED TO BE A TEENAGE ALIEN-BONDED VIGILANTE" CONVERSATION, THAT IS.
YOU'RE LATE, ANDI.
AGAIN.
JAZZ
Sales
BUT I BROUGHT COFFEE, MITCH.
AGAIN.
BRIBERY WILL ONLY GET YOU SO FAR.
LOTS OF SUGAR? LOTS OF CREAM?
YOU KNOW IT.
YOU'VE ELEVATED TARDINESS TO AN ART FORM.
YOU SHOULDA KNOWN ME IN HIGH SCHOOL.
IT'S WEIRD
EVEN IN THE LULLS BETWEEN THESE
MAnXiA
ATTACKS
...I CAN STILL FEEL THE ANXIETY BUILDING...
...LIKE I KNOW IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THESE NIGHTMARES RETURN.

THEY ALWAYS DO
PART OF YOU!
YOU'LL NEVER BE FREE!
NEVER!
WHAT THE HELL, ANDI?
WHAT'S GOING ON OUT--
HRRRGGK!
SH-THUNK
MITCH!

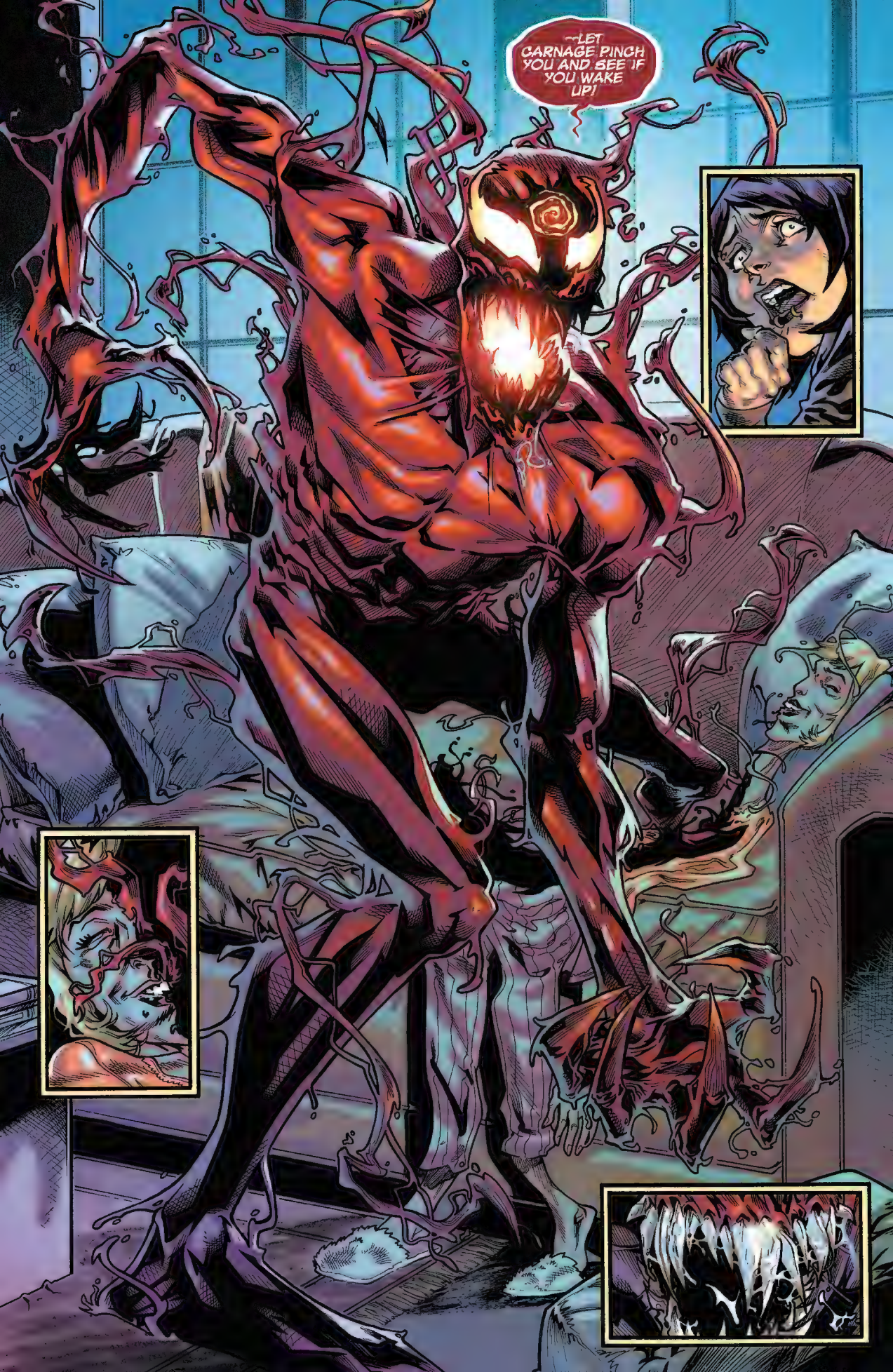
ANDI?
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT'S WRONG?
I...
I HAVE TO GO!
H-HEY!
YOU CAN'T JUST WALK OUT ON ME!

A SHORT TIME LATER...
WALKED AROUND FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS BEFORE HEADING HOME.
IF AUNT SARAH FIGURES OUT I'VE SKIPPED WORK, I'LL NEVER HEAR THE END OF IT.
THING IS,
I WANT TO TELL HER
AND IF I TELL HER ABOUT WORK...
AUNT SARAH?
...I KNOW I WON'T BE ABLE TO SHUT UP AND I'LL JUST TELL HER EVERYTHING.
THEN...JUST MAYBE
ANDI...
...COME IN, DEAR.
COME CLOSER.
I WOULDN'T BE GOING AT THIS ALL BY MY DAMN SELF
SHE'LL UNDERSTAND WON'T SHE?
ARE YOU...
IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
FAMILY IS SUPPOSED TO LISTEN TO YOU AND UNDERSTAND..
...EVEN WHEN THE MESSAGE ISN'T EASY TO HEAR.
I'M JUST FINE, DEAR.
JUST FINE.
JUST FINE!

JUST FINE!
NOT REAL
N-NO.
JUST ANOTHER HALLUCINATION.
C'MERE, AND).
GIVE AUNT SARAH A KISS!
A KISS!


MY MIND PLAYING TRICKS ON ME AGAIN
CAN'T BE REAL.
TORMENTING ME

OH, IT'S REAL GIRLIE!
THIS AIN'T NO DREAM!
HERE--


--LET CARNAGE PINCH YOU AND SEE IF YOU WAKE UP!

NOT REAL
SSSSH
ANOTHER NIGHTMARE.
SLLLSH
NOT REAL
NOT REAL
NOT REAL
NOT
AAAAGGH!
REAL
NEED TO GET AWAY!

AWWWW, WHERE YA GOIN' BOO?
WE AIN'T DONE PLAYIN'
WE AIN'T DONE--BY A LONG SHOT!
WANT TO SCREAM... ALMOST NEED TO SCREAM...
HNNN--
...BUT IF I SCREAM--
AHH--
OH, AND! SORRY, YOUNG LADY!
JUST OUT WALKING PEACHES.
DIDN'T MEAN TO GIVE YOU A--
YAP! YAP! YAP! YAP!
OH, DEAR!
YOU'VE BEEN HURT!
WE SHOULD GET YOU TO A DOCTOR!
SLLSH-
GLSSH-
SLLSGSH
M-MY HALLUCINATIONS...
...WERE THEY SOMEHOW WARNING ME?
TRYING TO PROTECT ME?

I DO THE ONLY THING I CAN.
I RUN.
THAT'S CARNAGE!
HE'S A MANIAC!
HE'LL KILL EVERYONE!
EVERYONE HE SEES!
AND I CAN'T FIGHT HIM!
YAP! YAP! YAP!
DRAW HIM AWAY FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
LURE HIM.
THEN WHAT?
YAP! YAP! YAP!
I'M ALONE.
COACH...
...I WISH YOU WERE HERE...
YOU'D KNOW WHAT TO DO.
YOU'D DAMN SURE COOK UP SOME KIND OF HAIL MARY.
GOTCHA!
YOU CAN'T SLIP AWAY!
I CAN SMELL THE SYMBIOTE DEEP DOWN IN YOUR MARROW!
TIME FOR LAST WORDS, GIRL.
R-RISE...

"...MONSTERS OF EVIL!"

DUNNO WHY CARNAGE CAME FOR ME.

DUNNO HOW HE TRACKED ME...HOW HE FOUND ME.

...BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW ME.

HE DIDN'T COUNT ON MY CURRENT CONNECTION TO HELL.

HE DIDN'T COUNT ON...

MY ABILITY TO SUMMON A BUNCH OF DEVIL-MONSTERS TO FIGHT BY MY SIDE.

DAMN, GIRL.

YOU'RE FREAKY.

YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT.

BUT YOU'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT.

I'M MARKED.

CURSED.

BY THE DEVIL.

MY MONSTERS.

FWOOOSH

REEEAAAARGH!

BIG AND DUMB AND DEMON-POSSESSED.

AND THEY ANSWER TO ME.

YEEEAAAAGH!

WHAM

N-NO!

NO MORE!

YOU'RE KILLING ME!

SHNK-NK
PSYCH!
HEHEHEH.
HOW--?
THE FLAMES... HELLFIRE
..SHOULD TURN THE SYMBIOTE TO ASH...
NICE TRY, KID.
BUT I'M AFRAID FIRE DOESN'T BOTHER ME ALL THAT MUCH ANYMORE
YOU AIN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO'S CURSED.
COULDA MADE THIS QUICK.
PAINLESS.
BUT NOOOOOOOOO.
YOU HAD TO ACT TOUGH
HAD TO PISS ME OFF
EH--
THRU-THUP-THRUP-THRUP

THRA-SMASH
GET
OFF
I
SWEAR...
I'LL MAKE IT RAIN BLOOD AND GUTS AND BONE!
LSSSH
SLLSH
GLSSH
LSSSH
CAN'T STAND IN THE WAY OF THE GOSPEL.
I AM THE APOSTLE OF KNULL.
YOUR BLOOD WILL BE MY OFFERING TO HIM.
COME AND GET IT, THEN.

BUT IT DAMN SURE WON'T BE EASY FOR YOU!
THWOCK
YOU ATTACKED ME!
YOU KILLED MY FAMILY!
GONNA MAKE YOU PAY!
GONNA MAKE YOU--
--SCREAM!
SORRY, GIRLIE
I THINK IT'S YOUR TURN TO HOLLER A BIT.
KRA-SNAP
NAGGGGH!

THOSE TRACES OF SYMBIOTE DNA THAT'RE FLOWING THROUGH YOUR BLOOD...
...I NEED THEM...
...NEED THEM TO FULFILL MY PROMISE TO KNULL...
...TO SET HIM FREE...
...AND WHEN I'VE GATHERED UP ALL THE LITTLE CAST-OFF SYMBIOTE BITS...
...ALL THE EXCREMENT LEFT IN YOUR CELLS...
...IN ALL THE OTHER HAS-BEENS AND WANNABES...
...KNULL AND ME ARE GONNA WASH THE WORLD IN BLOOD!
WHATEVER IT IS YOU'RE DOING...
...WHATEVER INSANITY THAT'S GOT YOU ALL RILED UP...
...IT BROUGHT YOU TO ME...
...AND I'M SENDING YOU TO HELL.
HAVEN'T YOU BEEN LISTENING?
YOU THINK DEVILS SCARE ME?
THINK AGAIN!

I GIVE DEVILS NIGHTMARES!

AND EVERY TIME I EAT ONE OF YOU LOSERS--YOU FAKERS--I GET A LITTLE JOLT!

SOON ENOUGH, I WON'T JUST BE GOOD 'OL CARNAGE.

AGGHH!

I'LL BE A GOD!

GRUUUHH!

SCHUNK

SHUNK

SHUNK

H-H-HOLD HIM.

HOLD HIM.

LET ME--

N-NO!

WHAT--

FWOOOSH

COME ON!

DON'T RUN OFF!

WE WERE JUST STARTING TO HAVE FUN!

HELL-MARK
SOMEHOW... TELEPORTED ME AWAY.
DEMONIC SELF-PRESERVATION.
THE INFERNAL REALM NEEDS ME ALIVE.
HE WOULD HAVE KILLED ME.
I THREW EVERYTHING AT HIM.
BUT COULDN'T STOP HIM.
HE'S GATHERING POWER.
IF HE GOT ME, THE OTHERS...
...WOULDN'T HAVE THEIR OWN SCREWED-UP PSYCHES TO WARN THEM.
AT LEAST...THIS WAY...I'LL BE ABLE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY.

AND...JUST LIKE THAT...I'M NO LONGER FALLING THROUGH HELL.
INSTEAD, I'M IN...
...NEW YORK.
VENOM'S HERE.
THE OTHER VENOM.
EDDIE BROCK.
I'VE GOTTA FIND HIM.
WARN HIM ABOUT CARNAGE.
WARN HIM THAT CARNAGE IS COMING FOR PEOPLE WITH A CONNECTION TO THE SYMBIOTES.
WE'VE GOTTA STOP HIM.
WE.
I CAN'T DO IT ON MY OWN.
I CAN'T STOP HIM...ALONE.
BUT I'M NOT ALONE, AM I?
I'LL NEVER BE ALONE.

EVEN THOUGH I LEFT CARNAGE IN PHILLY...
...I CAN STILL FEEL HIM...
...CLINGING TO ME...
HUH.
LITTLE SNOT THINKS SHE CAN RUN AND HIDE?
DON'T SHE KNOW I CAN FIND HER WHEREVER SHE GOES?
...FOLLOWING ME...
...LIKE A BAD DREAM I JUST CAN'T SHAKE...
...LIKE PHANTOM PAIN.
DON'T SHE KNOW SHE'S JUST LEADING ME WHERE I WAS PLANNING ON GOING ANYHOW?
TO BE CONTINUED IN ABSOLUTE CARNAGE!

FUNERAL PYRE #1 VARIANT BY **COAX**

FUNERAL PYRE #1 VARIANT BY **CLAYTON CRAIN**

SINISTER TALES FROM THE WEB OF VENOM!

First, journey back in time to the United States' struggles in the Vietnam War. Nick Fury needs a secret weapon to turn the tide. But when archaeologists discover an ancient creature, has he found the solution – or a waking nightmare? Then, reacquaint yourself with the sickening sociopath called Carnage! You thought Cletus Kasady was dead – but a cult devoted to the madman has gathered, hoping to resurrect their fallen idol and return his madness to the Marvel Universe! And take a journey through Eddie's old haunts in San Francisco – from the perspective of his alien "other"! But will Andi Benton, formerly the symbiote-wielder known as Mania, join the growing pile of bodies on the path to...ABSOLUTE CARNAGE?!

COLLECTING ***WEB OF VENOM: VE'NAM***, ***CARNAGE BORN***, ***VENOM UNLEASHED*** AND ***FUNERAL PYRE*** – BY DONNY CATES, RYAN STEGMAN, CULLEN BUNN, JUANAN RAMÍREZ, DANILO S. BEYRUTH, KYLE HOTZ, JUAN GEDEON, ALBERTO ALBURQUERQUE, JOSHUA CASSARA, MARC DEERING, SCOTT HANNA, LIVESAY, ROBERTO POGGI, VICTOR OLAZABA, FELIPE SOBREIRO, CRIS PETER, DAN BROWN, MATT YACKEY, ANDREW CROSSLEY AND CARLOS CABRERA.

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